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'No return to industrial warfare'

Join the real world, Blair tells unions

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND PHILIP BASSETT



Blair: "We will keep market flexibility"

THE Prime Minister told the trade unions in stark terms yesterday that they must cast aside their dogmas and join the real world if they were to have a role in creating a modern enterprise Britain.

He made plain that union leaders had no automatic influence over a Labour Government, and he warned them that they risked being left behind unless they came to terms with the challenges of a more competitive world. They must shed old-fashioned, defensive attitudes, modernise their political structures and accept new responsibilities.

Tony Blair's uncompromising speech to the TUC conference in Brighton amounted to a general call for all of Britain's institutions to modernise, but it was clear that the union movement was at the top of his list.

His address to the conference was the first by a Prime Minister since 1978 and, as such, the ovations he received were to be expected. But much of what he said was heard in uncomfortable silence and some union leaders objected strongly to his words. One said: "We don't want threats." The Archbishop of Canterbury, who backed the principle of workers' rights in his speech earlier, won a more enthusiastic reception.

Mr Blair's main theme was the creation of a more competitive country and he slapped down John Edmonds of the GMB who had attacked his insistence on employment flexibility. Mr Edmonds had said that he "shivered a little"

the small groups trying to run the show — have no future."

Labour and the unions must not repeat past mistakes: heavy-handed state intervention, nationalism, industrial conflict. Instead they should adopt the "modern way" and face up to the reality that "we must be adaptable, flexible and open to change".

If the Government and the unions did not make Britain a country of successful businesses, then they were betraying those they represented. And the unions should be creative, not conservative. "Let us make it impossible to dismiss trade unions as old-fashioned, defensive, anti-progress and activist-dominated. We have nothing to lose but our dogmas. So let us lose them."

Delegates' response to the speech was mixed. John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, said that the Prime Minister had been well-received, though he accepted that he had a "hard message", while Tony Young, of the communication workers, welcomed the call for the unions to join the Government in its modernisation programme.

The Unison leader Rodney Bickerstaffe said: "With the Archbishop's speech earlier, it was a good day for the unions." But Davie Patton of the Fire Brigades Union objected to being told to join the real world, and said: "We don't want threats."

The unions should also follow the Labour Party in modernising their political structures. "Influence with this Government and with me is not determined by anything other than the persuasiveness of your arguments. The old ways — resolutionists, the committee rooms, the fixing,

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Wife raped by husband wins £14,000 payout

BY PAUL WILKINSON AND FRANCES GIBB

Two die in trip to pay tribute to Princess

BY PAUL KELBIE

THE QUEEN yesterday sent a message of sympathy to a coach party involved in a fatal crash while it was travelling to London to pay tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales.

Two women were killed and 47 others were injured after the 53-seat Volvo coach was in collision with a lorry and a van near junction 12 of the M6 near Cannock, Staffordshire.

A spokesman for the Crewe-based coach company said their vehicle, which had no seatbelts, was stationary in a traffic jam at the time of the crash.

Last night a spokesman for Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen learnt with sadness of the accident involving the 50s Plus Club of Nantwich and has sent a message of sympathy to the organisers."

Thousands of people with floral tributes were last night still converging on the gates of Buckingham and Kensington palaces while in Paris a third blood test on the body of Henri Paul, the Ritz chauffeur, confirmed he had been more than three times over France's legal drink-drive limit on the night the Princess died.

In London, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said

Princes William and Harry must be protected from Press "hounding" up to and beyond their 16th birthdays if self-regulation of the press was to meet public expectations.

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There were ovations for the first Prime Minister to address the TUC for two decades, but much of Mr Blair's speech was heard in silence

Whitehall press officers are purged

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

A PURGE of senior Government information officers has begun in Whitehall after some Cabinet Ministers asked for a review of their personal press arrangements.

No central directive has been issued to departments by Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, who is in charge of Government presentation. But senior Government sources confirmed last night that Ministers feel many of the Whitehall press officers cannot match the skills used by the Labour Party's own spin doctors.

One source said: "We are expecting a few more casualties. Four people have already been moved from their posts and others are feeling anxious and

unhappy. But I can say now that we do not think there is any politicisation going on. It is to do with the job required by different ministers."

Another official confirmed that departments were keen to observe proprieties and the moves were not intended for political propagandas purposes.

But alarm in Whitehall was triggered yesterday when Gill Samuel, an experienced director of information who has worked at the Ministry of Defence for five years, and was previously at Transport, and Trade and Industry, learnt that her department was to be restructured and she would no longer be head. She is to stay at the MoD on other duties.

Information staff were told the department had to be more innovative, more concerned with shaping the

political agenda, and more reactive to events. Her post is to be filled by Fiona Muirhead, currently command secretary at the Permanent Joint Forces Headquarters at Northwood, Middlesex, who was selected by Richard Mottram, MoD Permanent Secretary, to head news information. She has no direct experience with handling the media.

Miss Samuel told her office yesterday that the aim apparently was to copy the system used in the Foreign Office and Treasury, where specialists — a diplomat and an economist respectively — are put in charge of the press.

But Whitehall sources suggested last night that Bernard Gray, a former defence correspondent with the *Financial Times*, who has been appointed a

special adviser by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, would be closely involved with the department's PR. MoD sources made it clear last night however that Mr Robertson does not wish to have a personal press officer.

Other changes that have taken place during the summer are the removal of Andy Wood, director of information at the Northern Ireland office. He was told by his permanent secretary, John Chilcot, that his style and personal chemistry with Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, were not right. He is on paid leave from the department while other opportunities are explored. Liz Drummond, director of information at the Scottish Office, was also told her department was to be restructured and she decided to ask

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Adams takes step to peace talks

Gerry Adams met the final condition for Sinn Fein's participation in full-scale peace negotiations by affirming its "total and absolute commitment" to the "Mitchell" principles. The ceremony was boycotted by Unionist and loyalist parties.... Page 2

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Hackett, soldier and don, dies

General Sir John Hackett, the last surviving senior British officer from the Battle of Arnhem, died yesterday, aged 86. Sir John went on to become Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine and later was Principal of King's College, London.

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Fraser back for West Indies tour

Angus Fraser, 32, the Middlesex seam bowler, has been recalled by England for the tour of West Indies after an absence of two years.

Ashley Cowan, 22, of Essex, is the youngest member of the tour party. Derbyshire's Dominic Cork has been excluded.... Page 48

Inflation hits two-year high

Steep rises in mortgage payments and the cost of summer holidays pushed headline inflation to a two-year high of 3.5 per cent in August.

But the underlying figure fell and the City is now convinced that the Bank of England will not put up interest rates this week.... Page 25

Last orders

Public houses could be forced to close under a penalty points scheme aimed at cutting drink-related violence and similar to the motoring offence "totting up" system.... Page 2

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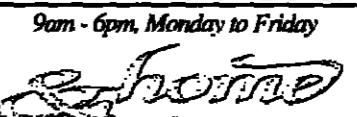
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Sinn Fein vows to turn its back on use of force

AFTER three decades of republican violence, Sinn Fein yesterday formally renounced the use of force to achieve political ends.

In a brief Stormont ceremony boycotted by every Unionist and loyalist party, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, met the final condition for his party's participation in full-scale peace negotiations by affirming its "total and absolute commitment" to the so-called "Mitchell principles" of democracy and non-violence.

Behind closed doors, George Mitchell, the former United States senator who chairs the peace talks, read out the six principles, which include the resolution of political issues through "democratic and exclusively peaceful means", the renunciation of force to influence the negotiations and the total disarmament of all paramilitary

Loyalists boycott historic ceremony as Adams adopts principles, writes Martin Fletcher

organisations. "I am very pleased and welcome the opportunity to affirm these principles on behalf of Sinn Fein," Mr Adams replied.

Mr Adams called the Sinn Fein pledge a watershed and an historic step, though he told journalists that he was not representing the IRA. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, said the Government would hold Sinn Fein to its pledge with "total determination", but hoped that "at long last the ancient enmities of hatred and

sectarianism can be laid to rest and the people of Northern Ireland can have the future that they want and deserve". Sinn Fein can be expelled from the talks if it violates the principles.

However, Unionist and loyalist reaction was uniformly negative. The Ulster Unionist Party called the ceremony a charade. Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, dismissed as a "colossal lie" a claim by Paul Murphy, the political development minister, that Sinn Fein's pledge heralded a new era in which the gun would finally be removed from Ireland's politics. Spokesmen for the loyalist Ulster Democratic and Progressive Unionist parties called the ceremony a "sham".

The key question now is whether the UUP will attend the negotiations when they commence on Monday. The DUP and the UK Unionist Party have already walked out, and the UDP and PUP will almost certainly follow the UUP's lead.

David Trimble, the UUP leader, meets Mr Blair at Downing Street this afternoon and much will depend on the Prime Minister's response to written demands for ten confidence-building measures the UUP presented to him two weeks ago. These include an unequivocal public statement by Mr Blair that there can be no constitutional change in Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority of its

people, and a statement by the Irish and British governments that IRA disarmament will be required during the negotiations.

The UUP is further demanding the replacement of certain senior Northern Ireland Office officials that it does not trust, a grand committee at Westminster to consider Northern Ireland legislation, the maintenance of strong police and security forces and to take effective steps to prevent such actions.

Stormont and negotiate through interlocutors instead. Mr Adams and John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, both pointed out that UUP councillors had no difficulty sitting down with Sinn Fein counterparts at local-government level.

The UUP is under great pressure not to abandon the negotiations. Mr Mitchell said political leaders had to seize the opportunity presented by the first talks in the history of

Weapons stockpiles pose continuing threat to peace

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA seems to be holding its breath during the lead-up to the talks next Monday, refraining from any activity that might be interpreted by the Loyalists as a breach of the ceasefire.

After the signing by Sinn Fein leaders yesterday of the six Mitchell principles, renouncing the use of violence, even the most extreme of the IRA "brigades" appeared to be

under orders to stay at home and to avoid any suspicious activity.

However, the security forces remain acutely aware that the secret arms dumps in the Irish Republic remain in place and IRA research by its technical experts is assumed to be continuing to improve bombing technology.

Nevertheless, targeting missions, dummy bombing runs, training and arms buying — activities which continued during the previous ceasefire announced in 1994 — have

been suspended. Security officials acknowledged that the latest ceasefire announced on July 20, had held because of the different conditions laid down by Tony Blair. His declaration of two deadlines — September 9 for signing the Mitchell principles and September 15 for the start of all-party peace talks — had forced the IRA's hand.

The IRA's weapons stocks stored in bunkers mostly thought to be inside isolated farm buildings and under silage pits in the Irish Republic to avoid airborne surveillance systems, include at least two of the accurate American Barrett

peace talks. Now the IRA has been inactive for almost two months, but the continued existence of secret arms caches of guns, Semtex explosives and advanced mortar systems poses a continuing threat to peace hopes.

The IRA's weapons stocks stored in bunkers mostly thought to be inside isolated farm buildings and under silage pits in the Irish Republic to avoid airborne surveillance systems, include at least two of the accurate American Barrett

"Light 50" M82A1 heavy sniper rifles, about 650 AK47 rifles, up to 30 Armalite assault rifles, three tonnes of Semtex and an assortment of machineguns, rocket launchers, flame-throwers and home-made mortars.

The security authorities looking for signs of any IRA activities have concluded that the terrorist organisation has adopted an ultra-cautious position so as not to undermine Sinn Fein's negotiating strategy. However, there is an awareness that the

ceasefire is still in its early stages and that the IRA has control over a huge amount of weapons and explosives to revert to violence if the talks fail.

Most of the explosive devices used in the bombing campaign that was re-launched on the mainland in February last year, after the ending of the first ceasefire, were home-made. Only tiny amounts of Semtex were used, preserving the Libyan-supplied military explosive material for possible future use.

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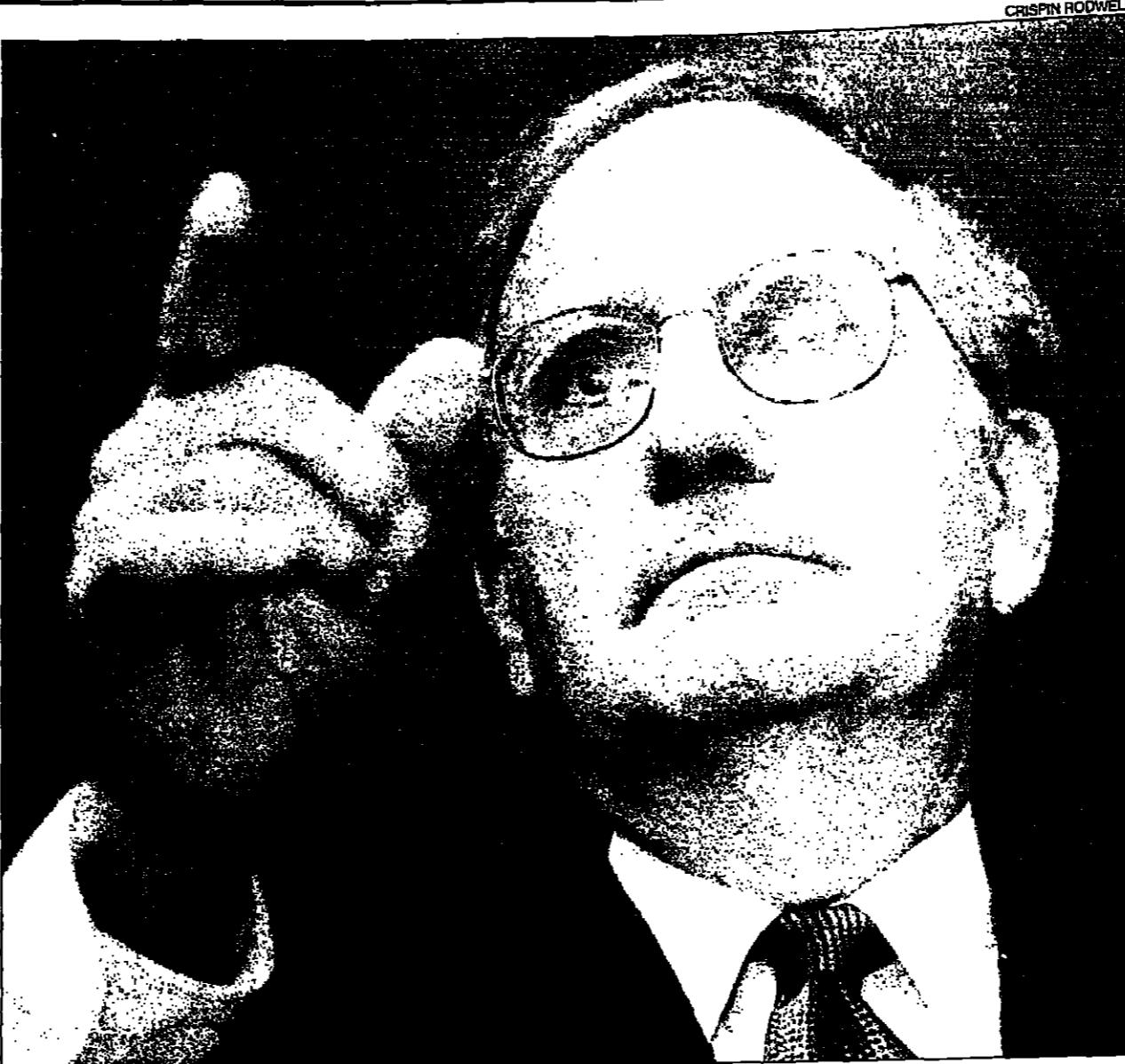
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Mitchell in Belfast yesterday: "The important thing is that there be progress... the method is less important"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Colleges 'facing a global challenge'

British universities face global competition for students from international institutions modelled on the Open University, a World Bank expert told vice-chancellors in London yesterday.

Julian Schweizer said international studies suggested that charging fees did not deter students from entering higher education. However, their introduction had to be accompanied by flexible loan programmes and diversity in the types of courses available. Higher education was becoming more market-driven worldwide as universities faced the same funding problems that were driving Britain towards introducing fees, Mr Schweizer said. Among the results would be more choice for students and greater competition for their recruitment.

Planes crashed

Air Canada has instructed its pilots to exercise extreme caution when taxiing at congested parts of Heathrow after the pilot of a Canadian jumbo taxiing for take-off at the airport thought passengers were imagining things when they reported that his wing tip had hit another aircraft nearby. The airport has set up a working group to review procedures after an official report into the incident.

Ambulance case

A man died after two members of an ambulance crew turned down their radio to avoid hearing emergency calls, an administrator of the London Ambulance Service told an industrial tribunal. Harry Clutterbuck, 86, died in hospital after another ambulance was contacted. Robert Foster and Jim McGregor claim they were unfairly dismissed for gross misconduct. The hearing continues.

E coli deaths

Two elderly patients have died and 11 others have been put in isolation after an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning at a hospital in Northallerton, north Yorkshire. Another patient is recovering and a nurse is under observation. Officials at the Friarage Hospital said it was believed that the infection had been brought in by a patient undergoing treatment for another condition.

Attack database

France's investigating magistrate in the Caroline Dickenson murder case has ordered police to interview the keepers of every youth hostel in that country, so that a database of similar incidents can be built up. Caroline, 13, was raped and murdered in July last year in the youth hostel of the Brittany village of Pleine-Fougères. An attack at a nearby hostel, the same night, was reported at the time.

Navy review

A new Ministry of Defence working party has been set up to review the role of women in the Armed Forces — which could mean the end of all-men submarines. Even in the latest Astute class submarines, much of the crew will continue to operate the traditional "hot-bunking" system, under which crew members coming off one watch climb into warm bunks vacated by other sailors.

Ship's last cruise

The cruise liner *Canberra* sails from Southampton today on its final voyage before being broken up for scrap. A two-year search for a buyer for the ship, designed to take British emigrants to Australia, has failed. She is due to return to Southampton on September 30 and will be taken to a breaker's yard, probably in the Far East. The 30-year-old ship fails many new international safety laws.

Wife wins case for rape by husband

Continued from page 1
could get under the statutory compensation scheme for rape." Under the old Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, a woman raped by her estranged husband was awarded £25,000 in 1992 to cover medical and physical injuries.

Chris Barton, Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University, said: "I know of no other action where the wife has sued successfully in the civil courts for the trespass of rape."

"It is all very American in terms of allowing yet a further incursion of the law into the privacy of the family."

Describing her ordeal on the night of Boxing Day, 1992, the woman said she was asleep when her husband, who had been drinking, came in late. She awoke to find herself being violently sexually assaulted. She was then raped.

"Four days after the attack, I was in shock," she said. "I just couldn't believe my husband could have carried out such a despicable act... I just didn't know who turn to. I felt no one would listen and that no one would believe what had happened."

"So, partly because of the children and partly because I

felt I did not have a case, I ended up staying with him. It was a terrible time. I used to feel physically sick and start shaking at bedtimes. He could not understand why I was acting the way I was — he did not think he had done anything wrong."

The woman finally broke her silence two months later when she spoke to a psychiatric nurse her husband asked to visit her because he was concerned about her behaviour. The police were informed but no charges were brought. It was not until 16 months later that she decided to bring her civil action.

Yesterday she said: "I am glad I continued with the case. It was hard at the time, and could be upsetting because my husband was sitting in court as I was giving my evidence. But we won in the end and, if nothing else happens from the case, I hope other women will be encouraged to use it in their fight for justice."

Mark Husband, her solicitor, said: "This is the first time a woman has sued her husband for rape." He said he had suggested bringing the action after a colleague handling the woman's divorce settlement sought his advice over the assault.

Teenage killer we murder Gang identify vulnerable y

England rugby star 'put hand down my trousers'

Former international John Hall denies indecent assault during wine bar victory celebration

By SIMON DE BRUNELLES

THE former England rugby star John Hall put his hand down a woman's trousers and squeezed her bottom during a hard-drinking celebration with some of the country's top players, a court heard yesterday.

His alleged victim, a 24-year-old student, told Bristol Crown Court that Hall, then manager of Bath RFC, accosted her in a wine bar while celebrating victory over Will Carling's Harlequins in December last year. With him were the Bath and England players Ben Clarke, Jeremy Guscott, Adedayo Adebayo and Steve Ojomoh.

The trainee teacher described how Hall tried to kiss her on the lips and then assaulted her. But Hall, 35, who was capped 22 times, told the jury it was the woman who had pinched his bottom and that she only complained after he had rejected her advances.

The student said she recognised Hall from television and newspaper appearances when he grabbed her wrist and asked her to meet his friends. He gave her a peck on the cheek, she said, and added: "He went to kiss me on the lips. I pulled away and told him to *** off. I had never met the man before in my life."

"I felt his hand go to the

back of my trousers and down my knickers and touch my bottom. I was disgusted. I struggled away and said, 'You shouldn't have done that.'

Michael Mather-Lee, for the prosecution, said: "The young woman has an absolute right not to be touched against her will. The issue is whether you believe the complainant or the defendant."

Hall, who denies indecent assault, told the jury that he had been standing at the bar when he felt someone pinching his bottom. He said: "I probably had seven or eight pints. I felt merry but I was completely in control. Some girls behind me pinched my bum several times. I ignored it initially, but when it carried on I said to one girl, 'Please stop pinching my bum.'

"We had a very short chat. She pushed herself towards me and started kissing me. She pushed her tongue into my mouth in a French kiss. I reciprocated because I felt flattered that an attractive young lady was doing this. Then I pulled away and thought better of it. I was engaged to be married and also it was not generally the right thing to do."

"It shocked me to think she pushed herself on to me. I felt embarrassed, really." He said that shortly afterwards, "two gentlemen came up and started making allegations to me. They were extremely aggressive which took me back. They said, 'You tried to put your hands down a girl's trousers'."

"I was dumbfounded. I am quite a shy person and I was very concerned about what they were saying. Ben Clarke said, 'Let's go' but I said, 'No, let's stay for the police'."

Cross-examined by Richard Smith, for the defence, the woman, whose boyfriend is a police officer, claimed Hall had said "Let's make that a proper shag" as he tried to kiss her on the lips. She denied that she had been flirting with the rugby star. She said: "I just made polite conversation and I wasn't aware of any of the girls flirting with them."

Asked if she had kissed him first, she replied: "No disrespect, but why would I want to kiss him?"

She added: "He tried to plant his lips on mine and I think he did plant his lips on mine. I pulled back. I was angered. As I pulled back I must have moved to one side. I felt a full hand on the cheek of my bottom and he tried to put his hand further. I just pulled away."

"I walked off and turned back and saw him grabbing and kissing a blonde girl."

The jury was shown the black, flared trousers with an unelastized waist that she was wearing on the night of



Jeremy Guscott, left, was one of the wine bar revellers. Jack Rowell gave evidence as a character witness



the incident. They were told she had also been wearing a short shirt which was not tucked in.

Mr Smith asked the witness to hold up the black trousers and show the jury the lack of "give" in the waist band and the difficulty anyone would have had putting a hand down them.

Mr Smith said: "You kissed this man John Hall quite willingly. Then knowing that was the wrong thing to have done you have made up a lie that he touched your bottom."

At one point during cross-examination the petite brunette broke down and had to leave the dock for ten minutes. Hall, of Slaughterford, Wiltshire, was ousted as Bath's director of rugby earlier this year.

Jack Rowell, the former England team manager, was called as a character witness. Mr Rowell, 60, told the court: "I have known John for 20 years. I choose my friends very carefully and he is one of them. In my many years of coaching there have been only half a dozen people I have met and would call friends."

"I have never seen John off the field abuse his physique. I don't think he has a propensity for unacceptable behaviour. When I heard about the allegations via a third party both I and my wife were shocked."

The case continues.



John Hall, the Bath player, leaving Bristol Crown Court after the hearing

Teenage machete killer weeps after murder verdict

REPORTS BY ADAM FRESCO AND RICHARD DUCE



Nathan Brown, left, described as a mummy's boy, stabbed Carl Rickard in front of a gang of friends

WEEEPING and wringing his hands, the leader of a teenage triad-style gang was led away to a cell yesterday after he was convicted of murdering a boy with a machete.

An Old Bailey judge ordered that Nathan Brown, 16, be detained indefinitely for the killing outside a south London school. He had left his 14-year-old victim, Carl Rickard, with blood pouring from his head and pleading: "What did I do, what did I do?"

He was chosen for the attack because Brown, then 15, believed that he had slighted the gang he led, called the Golden Snakes. With other gang members, Brown took a minibus to the boy's school in Kidbrooke last January and attacked him outside the gates.

Carl was punched and kicked to the ground and stabbed three times with the 17in blade that Brown kept in his locker at another school near by. Carl died later in hospital.

The court was told that the gang ran away laughing afterwards and Brown, said to have a fixation with martial arts, later boasted: "We got him. We done the job. I chopped him."

Brown, described as a loner and a mummy's boy, had admitted manslaughter but denied murder, claiming that he had feigned the attack and had not meant to cause serious

injury. As the jury returned the verdict, Carl's sister, Sally, leapt from her seat and punched the air.

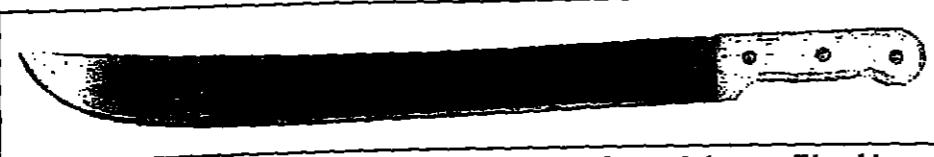
Outside court, Carl's mother, Lyn, said: "I hate Nathan Brown so much but I don't want revenge on him or his family because I don't want my mum to feel how I feel."

"I am just a shell. These days I laugh and joke, but it is a dead laugh. I hate getting up every morning. CJ is on my brain 24 hours, seven days a week. I cannot wait until the day I am with him again."

Orlando Pownall, for the prosecution, had told the jury: "Brown was a member of a gang known as 14K which modelled itself on Chinese triads. The Crown's case is that he was the leader of a section of the gang known as the Golden Snakes."

"One of the gang punched Rickard in the face and then the whole gang attacked him."

Gang identity enticed vulnerable youngsters



The machete used by Nathan Brown in the murder; afterwards he ran off laughing

STATUS and street credibility are the aim for the thousands of boys who have joined gangs styled on the Chinese Triads in Britain's inner cities.

Although police have been aware of their emergence for several years it was not until a Triad-style gang was held responsible for the death of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence that the public became aware of them.

Nathan Brown fits the police blueprint for a gang member. He was a loner, came from a broken home and found no sense of identity until he joined a gang. It gave him a sense of status and belonging: allegiance to a violent code and a belief that he had found true friends for

the first time. Police believe it is this teenage vulnerability that makes boys of Brown's age prime candidates for gang recruitment.

One police source, close to the Brown murder inquiry, said: "They all wear the clothes of the Triads, baggy trousers and bandanas. It is becoming a growing problem. Witnesses have told us there are thousands of members of these gangs around the country."

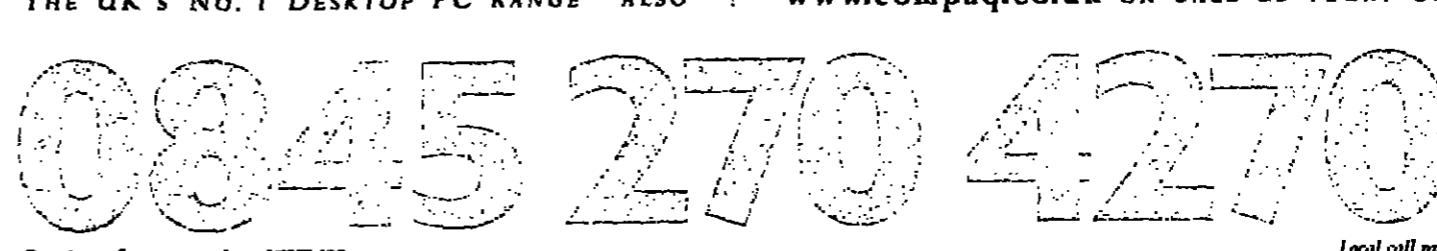
The emergence of the schoolboy gangs is rooted in the activities of a real Triad gang known as 14K, which began recruiting youngsters in the early 1990s.

Youngsters of all races and backgrounds were drawn in, mainly in London, to help

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Shipwrecked family sail away with new baby

UNDAUNTED by a shipwreck that nearly cost them their lives, the Schinas family is taking to the ocean again with a fifth crew member — a two-week-old baby girl.

Nick and Jill Schinas, together with their children Xoe, 5, and Matthew, 4, were plucked from their 43ft ketch in mountainous seas during a helicopter rescue in the South Atlantic in January last year. Now, after rebuilding the boat in Chichester, West Sussex, they have set sail again for the Mediterranean.

One midwife yesterday described the latest adventure as "bonkers". Mrs Schinas was undeterred by the prospect of caring for a baby at sea.

She said: "I suppose most people think we are mad, leaving to sail the globe with a two-week-old child after what has happened to us. But this is the only life we know and every day is a real-life geography lesson for the kids. Whenever we put in at port, the children eat the local food and meet the local children."

Mr Schinas, 41, who gave up jobs in journalism and the motor trade to devote his life to sailing, spent £8,000 having his ketch *Maamari* towed

Couple who had to be rescued last year are off again with two-week-old daughter, writes

Richard Duce

back from the Falklands to the south coast. He and his 36-year-old wife are experienced sailors and married seven years ago on the Amazon. Their two eldest children were born in Antigua.

Before setting off last weekend with the new baby, Roxanne, on board, Mr Schinas said: "We have had one bad experience but having one car crash doesn't necessarily stop you driving. We have no plans to ever return to Britain. We will just go anywhere the mood takes us. I have no worries at all about the safety of my family. I'd be more worried living in London."

"I am confident a two-week-old baby is safer at sea than on dry land. Roxanne was born

on board *Maamari* with the help of a midwife and then we couldn't wait to be off again. My children have spent their lives sailing. They have never seen a classroom and have no idea what bullying and violence means.

"They have never watched television, used a computer or eaten a Big Mac. Their education is travelling with us, watching dolphins swim beside the hull."

"We probably will go back to the South Atlantic because the kids want to see king penguins but it won't be just yet."

The Royal College of Midwives said the ocean journey for a two-week-old baby gave cause for concern. "It is a matter of parental choice but it is not something that we would recommend. We would have concerns if baby needed assistance while out at sea and young children can get ill very quickly."



Nick and Jill Schinas with Roxanne, Matthew and Xoe on their ketch. "A baby is safer at sea," Mr Schinas says

Dentist's patients win £2m damages

By PAUL WILKINSON

NEARLY a hundred patients of a dentist who left them physically and mentally damaged when he carried out unnecessary treatment have accepted compensation totalling up to £2 million.

The out-of-court settlement ends an eight-year legal battle by people who attended the one-man practice run by Barry Garrett, 48, in the East Yorkshire market town of Driffield. He treated healthy teeth so that he would be paid for the work.

One patient, Jane Appleton, was 15 when she started 25 visits over two years, involving 99 separate treatments to 13 teeth. The damage cost £43,000 to put right.

Mr Garrett admitted negligence through his counsel. The damages will be paid by the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland.

He was struck off in 1989 for serious professional misconduct but reinstated in 1991 after retraining. He was last heard of a year ago practising in northwest England.

Chickenpox in adult life can be lethal

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A father has been killed by chickenpox days after catching it from the four-year-old son he was nursing. Terry Rouson, 34, died four days after falling ill with the disease.

Antibiotics failed to control the acute infection, which spread into his lungs, leaving him unconscious and scarcely able to breathe. He died in hospital and the post mortem examination showed the cause as a lung infection derived from chickenpox.

To be near his son, Jake, Mr Rouson had followed his former girlfriend Jenny Little, 36, to Colchester from his home in Plymouth after they separated. When the boy became ill he volunteered to nurse him.

The greatest disaster expected when children catch chickenpox is that they might be left with a permanent pitted scar on their face. It is very different when adults catch chickenpox or if they are immunocompromised, for then scarring is the least of the worries.

Many immunocompromised patients are taking steroids or other immunosuppressant drugs. Others may be suffering from chronic kidney or similar serious diseases and some are HIV positive. Contacts of people with chickenpox who belong to one of these high risk groups can be protected by giving them appropriate immunisation.

Chickenpox is caused by a virus, varicella, one of the herpes group. It is normally a disease of childhood and during this period it is only rarely serious.

When patients develop a severe attack the rash, which appears in crops, is usually spread all over the body including the mouth, larynx, trachea and bronchial tubes. It can also cause severe herpetic ulcers in the vagina, rectum and under the eyelids.

The acute viral infection can be serious, even fatal, as the case of Mr Rouson has shown. He died from pneumonia, a well-documented complication of chickenpox in adults. Pneumonia is caused by the virus rather than from secondary bacterial infection, and so does not respond to antibiotics but anti-viral agents can prove helpful.

Other complications that affect adults, or immunocompromised patients, are inflammation of the heart muscle, of the joints or even hepatitis. A particularly unpleasant complication is encephalopathy. Inflammation of the tissue of the brain usually starts a fortnight after the rash started, by which time the patient is feeling better, the initial blisters have dried and the first scabs are separating.

Last year 25 people in Britain died from chickenpox, 20 of whom were adults.

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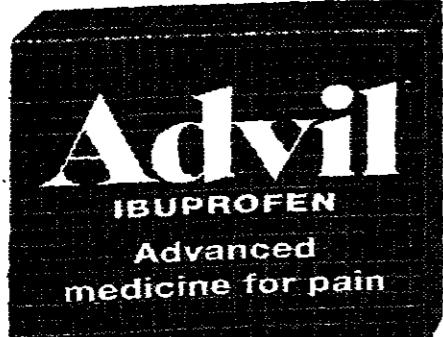
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Third test confirms crash driver had drunk heavily

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A THIRD set of tests on the body of Henri Paul, the chauffeur of the car in which Diana, Princess of Wales, died, has confirmed that he was driving with more than three times the legal alcohol limit in his blood. The findings open the way for possible prosecution of his employers, the Paris Ritz hotel, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed.

The tests, demanded by the family of the dead driver and Mr Al Fayed, were carried out by Paris Medical-Legal Institute and indicated that M. Paul, 41, had an alcohol level of 1.8 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood.

The two earlier tests, carried out immediately after the accident but challenged by Mr Al Fayed and the Paul family, revealed levels of 1.75 and 1.85 grammes per litre, roughly equivalent to drinking one and a half bottles of wine. The legal limit for driving in France is 0.5 grammes of alcohol per litre of blood.

Yesterday's tests technically leave the management of the Ritz open to prosecution under French law on charges of "negligence" or "endangering the life of another person" for permitting Mr Paul to drive while intoxicated. M. Paul, who was deputy director of security for the Paris Ritz, also allegedly lacked the qualifications required to drive the Mercedes.

The funeral of M. Paul, which was delayed pending the final tests, is expected to take place today in his home town of Lorient in Brittany. Nine photographers and a motorcycle driver, employed by a photographic agency, said to be in pursuit of the Princess and Dodi Fayed, remain under formal legal investigation on charges of manslaughter and failure to assist the victims.

In a further attempt to place blame for the crash on the paparazzi, Bernard Darteville, Mr Al Fayed's lawyer, claimed that a photograph taken just before the crash shows M. Paul and the Princess's bodyguard apparently dazzled by the flash of a camera, while the Princess is turned around in the back seat to look at a pursuing motorcycle. The photograph, and others indicating it was taken after their departure from the



French magistrates yesterday visiting the tunnel in Paris where the Mercedes carrying the Princess crashed

Ritz, are in the possession of police, M. Darteville said.

Mr Fayed's lawyers have filed civil law suits against two publications and two picture agencies alleging they "invaded the privacy and endangered the life" of the Princess and her friend by snatching photographs of them from a helicopter during their holiday last month.

They also claimed that two weeks before the fatal crash, the press was asked to stop harassing the couple. The suit alleges photographers working for *Paris Match*, *France Dimanche* and two unidentified agencies invaded the couple's privacy in the South of France.

Investigating magistrates visited the Paris road tunnel where the crash took place for the first time yesterday, aiming

to reconstruct the events leading up to the tragedy.

Although investigators have denied claims of a preliminary report indicating that the photographers could not be held responsible for the accident, police are increasingly leaning towards the belief that the crash was caused by alcohol and excessive speed.

Investigators have not come to a formal conclusion on the car's speed but police sources say they believe it was being driven at more than 90mph.

Max Coblenz, the lawyer for two of the photographers, said: "There will have to be a re-enactment of the accident before any decision is taken that might clear the photographers, and it will be some months before this can take place."

ing to reconstruct the events leading up to the tragedy.

Germans press for ban on landmines

FROM MICHAEL BINNION IN HAMBURG

KLAUS KINKEL, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday told Robin Cook of Germany's deep sorrow at the death of the Princess and his determination to redouble efforts to achieve a total landmine ban to honour her memory.

In a generous tribute, Herr Kinkel said her death was a great loss and the world had a responsibility to continue her commitment in the fight against landmines. Mr Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said Britain and Germany would jointly do their utmost to achieve a ban.

Mr Cook told German reporters that there was a new sense of solidarity and commitment in Britain that had been discovered by all those joined together in their grief.

He urged Britons to make the most of this commitment to the causes she supported.

German devastation at her death was still clearly evident in Hamburg, where the gateway to the British Consulate has been heaped with flowers left by mourners.

Haydn Phillips, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, yesterday wrote to local authority chief executives, lord-lieutenants and religious leaders across the country about the plans for gathering the tributes. The Government is determined that all the personal tokens should be handled in a sensitive fashion.

But government sources said yesterday there were now issues of public health and safety to consider and they could no longer allow the floral tribute, now five feet deep, at Kensington Gardens to remain untouched. Many flowers have decomposed and the temperature inside the mass could be up to 180F.

Civil servants are also to launch a review into the lessons to be drawn from the handling of the funeral. The most likely is the need for planning flexibility.

Althorp 'will be new Graceland'

Earl considers how best to provide access for public without profit, reports Daniel McGroarty

the local authority about coping with what will be huge numbers who want to honour Diana."

The Earl will restrict the number of days that the public will visit. He has yet to decide whether to charge an entrance fee but a spokesman said: "He certainly does not want to be seen as making money out of his sister's tragic death. His concern is to protect her privacy so no one will set foot on the island where Diana is buried but to allow people to honour her safely and with dignity."

The British Tourist Authority said if the estate was open all year it would instantly become Britain's biggest tourist attraction with more than a million visitors. One tourism expert said: "He needs to talk to the police and

said: "Althorp will be Buckingham Palace and Graceland rolled into one. Millions will want to come but it just depends how many he wants to let in."

Like so many owners of stately homes, Earl Spencer has struggled for years to balance the books of a 121-room house and an 8,500-acre estate that was losing £450,000 a year. He had to pay £1.5 million in death duties when he inherited the decaying pile from his father in 1992.

He was appalled that his stepmother, Raine Spencer, had sold paintings, furniture and heirlooms supposedly to reduce the debt and yet spent more than £2 million on refurbishments which he dismissed as making the house like a five-star hotel in Mon-

aco". His problem was that Althorp was never much of a money-making attraction. Tourists came for the first few months after the Princess's wedding but last year in the 60 days Earl Spencer opened the gates to tourists at £5 a head fewer than 10,000 turned up. The British Tourist Authority said that so few came it did not include it in its list of popular attractions.

Among the most urgent questions the Earl has to address about Althorp's future is whether he will now give up his home in South Africa and return to permanent residence. Staff say that this is unlikely as his four children live with their mother, Victoria, in Cape Town where the Earl spends much of the winter.

The likely compromise is that he will live at Althorp when he opens it for a limited number of days in the summer around the anniversary of the Princess's death.

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The Mall may be closed to cars for good

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

ANOTHER 40,000 people flocked to Kensington Palace yesterday to lay more tributes as the Government considered renaming Kensington Gardens in the Princess's honour.

The new Whitehall committee, chaired by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will also look at closing The Mall to traffic as a permanent memorial and a new foundation to fund her humanitarian work.

Officials are drawing up plans to redesign Kensington Gardens to accommodate the thousands of visitors who are expected to turn up at the Princess's former London home to honour her memory.

Officials say they will begin tomorrow the huge operation to move 10,000 tonnes of flowers and to collect the personal messages and tributes which will be stored in an archive until the Spencer family and Buckingham Palace decide what should be done with them. Buckingham Palace said it will save the half a million messages of condolence sent on the Internet.

The Government accepts that the public will want to walk the route of the funeral procession for some time and space will be made at the London palaces for tributes.

Among those coming to Kensington Palace yesterday was Dr Jean Ford, 51, an educational lecturer who made a 24-hour, 3,000-mile round trip from Chicago to lay flowers.

Gifts such as soft toys are being collected by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and if they have not been damaged by rain will be given to children's wards in hospitals or to children's charities. Other gifts laid in tribute - there were many bottles of champagne - will be handed to her charities for resale.

Haydn Phillips, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, yesterday wrote to local authority chief executives, lord-lieutenants and religious leaders across the country about the plans for gathering the tributes. The Government is determined that all the personal tokens should be handled in a sensitive fashion.

But government sources said yesterday there were now issues of public health and safety to consider and they could no longer allow the floral tribute, now five feet deep, at Kensington Gardens to remain untouched. Many flowers have decomposed and the temperature inside the mass could be up to 180F.

Civil servants are also to launch a review into the lessons to be drawn from the handling of the funeral. The most likely is the need for planning flexibility.

Logo gives memorial fund added protection

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MERCHANDISE sold in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund will carry the fund's official logo in an attempt to stop unscrupulous traders profiting from fake memorabilia.

Companies and individuals wanting to collect money for the charity will also be required to use the logo, which has been commissioned by the Princess's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, who are administering the fund.

A spokeswoman for the fund said that several draft designs for a logo had been produced and were awaiting a decision by the Spencer family. "We are in the process of producing an official logo but have not shown anything to the family yet," she said.

The logo is likely to be registered with the Patent Office. It is expected that a condition of its use will be the payment of royalties to the fund.

John Slater, president of the Institute of Trade Mark Agents, welcomed the decision to commission an official trade mark and said that the institute was willing to pro-

vide free advice on how to register the logo worldwide as quickly as possible. "We cannot guarantee that unscrupulous traders will not try to cash in on this sad occasion but what we can do is ensure that the legal framework is in place to take action against them," he said.

The logo will help the fund to benefit from an anticipated huge demand for memorabilia. Halcyon Days Enamels, based in London, is to produce two enamel boxes with portraits of the Princess. Susan Benjamin, managing director, said: "We were not going to produce anything but we have been overwhelmed by hundreds of re-

quests from all over the world. A significant proportion of the profits will be given to the fund."

A spokeswoman for Wedgwood, which has been making royal memorabilia for more than 200 years, said that it was considering a piece in memory of the Princess in response to international demand. Royal Worcester and Aynsley China are also considering the production of commemorative pieces. The fund has already given permission for Safeway to place collecting tins in 490 supermarkets.

Paul Fredericks, spokesman for the Charity Commission, which is advising the fund, added: "If individuals are suspicious of anybody collecting on behalf of a charity, but wish to support the cause, an effective way to ensure that their money reaches the charity is to donate directly to it."

□ Donations should be addressed to: The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, PO Box 1, WC1B 5HW. Credit card donations may be made by telephoning 0990 66 44 22. Cheques and cash may be paid into the fund at all main banks, building societies and post offices.

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Protect until 2 press wa

Protect princes until 21, says press watchdog

PRINCES William and Harry should be protected from the media spotlight until they leave university, Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission said yesterday.

He was pleased that there had been no "hounding" of the princes by British newspapers since an agreement was struck with Buckingham Palace two years ago. He said, however, that he was looking to extend protection for the princes until they finished their education around the age of 21.

Lord Wakeham also said that if the self-regulatory system was to meet public expectations, it must extend beyond the Royals to the public. However, he said he was against privacy legislation because he believed that it would mean less chance "of the ordinary guy on an ordinary budget" getting redress because of court costs. "The one thing I can say for certain about the PCC is it is quick and it is cheap. It costs nothing to complain to the PCC and that would disappear if there was a privacy law."

Lord Wakeham's comments came at a press conference at the London Press Club in his first public statement since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The PCC's chairman has spoken to national newspaper editors by telephone

Lord Wakeham is seeking to extend the voluntary ban on photographs of children, Damian Whitworth says

and is touring offices to discuss revisions to the newspaper and media industry's code of practice in relation to privacy.

Next week he intends to hold a meeting with the PCC's Code of Practice committee,

which is made up of representatives from the industry to discuss how best to revise the code. Lord Wakeham said that it was essential to make swift progress with the review, which will consider in particular the problem of the paparazzi "so dramatically and so tragically highlighted by the events of the last 10 days".

"Just over two years ago, before Prince William started his time at Eton, I set out the terms of a strict agreement between the Palace and the press on coverage of the young Prince studying at school," Lord Wakeham said. "That agreement — which applies as

much to both the princes as it does to any other child — made clear that the terms of Clause 12 of the industry's Code of Practice on the reporting of children had to be observed absolutely, even with regard to the most high-profile young person. This agreement has been observed with the diligence I would expect from all editors.

"When they have been at school, there has never been any 'hounding' of either of the young royal princes by any newspapers. As editors across the industry have unanimously been making clear over the last few days, there never will be — and the Press Complaints Commission is there to ensure that.

"I should also make clear that, in my own personal view, that means respecting their privacy while they are studying beyond the age of 16 as well. Indeed, there should be no arbitrary age limit on their right to study and to grow up without intrusion into their privacy. This is an issue which I will strive to create unity across the industry.

The responsibility shown by all editors in upholding the Code — even when the temptations are very great — shows the strength of self-regulation in practice. For, while there is of course a tremendous global market for pictures of this sort,



Lord Wakeham addresses the London Press Club yesterday. The princes' privacy must be respected throughout their education, he said

all editors — national and regional — have shown great restraint over publishing any of them."

Lord Wakeham said he believed the deal relating to the princes pointed the way forward for editors and the PCC across a wider range of fronts. "As the Prime Minister rightly said on Sunday, things will never be the same again for any of us. I think all editors

will heed those words, and will be thinking carefully about how they cover the private lives of all public figures.

"My concern — as always — is to ensure that the self-regulatory system meets public expectations. That means continuing to ensure protection not just to those in the public eye — but to ordinary people who from time to time

find themselves in the headlights of publicity.

"My concern today is rightly about Prince William and Prince Harry but my concern extends to all children who have a right to grow up free from intrusive journalism and it might be a question of us producing a separate note of guidance for children of public figures. By that I mean not only recognised public figures

but people who are for one reason or another suddenly thrust into the public limelight."

Asked whether his proposed toughening of the code might prove inadequate once Prince William and Prince Harry began courting, he replied: "There are difficulties in the whole of this area and it would be crazy of me to say within a few days of this great tragedy I

can solve all of these problems in a short time." Other options Lord Wakeham said he was considering included tightening the requirement for editors to satisfy themselves that photographs from freelancers had been obtained in circumstances which did not break the current code of practice on privacy.

Media, pages 22-23

Dahlias by royal request in bloom

BY ERIC REGULY

SPECIAL pink dahlias requested by the Princess two years ago have come into bloom in the garden of an amateur horticulturalist.

Robin Marks had intended to deliver the fully developed plants to her this month so that they could be grown at Kensington Palace. He now hopes they will be planted on the island at Althorp where she is buried.

Four years ago, Mr Marks wrote to the Home Office to get permission to develop a special dahlia for the Princess. He was told that she would like one in

blood red, to be called the "Princess of Wales". The Royal Horticultural Society determined that the name had already been used for a dahlia from 1867. The conflict was resolved by naming the new dahlia "Countess of Chester", which was registered with the society in 1995.

Impressed by Mr Marks's effort, the Princess asked him during a meeting at Kensington Palace to develop another dahlia, this time in pink. The "Lady of the Isles", as it was called, was registered with the society in June last year. Mr Marks showed the prototype to the

Princess two months later at Kensington Palace. "She wrote me a letter saying that she was very touched by all the effort I put into the dahlias," he said.

Mr Marks, 50, grew about 50 of the pink dahlias in his garden at Stillwaters, his house in Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. When the Princess died, he took the half-a-dozen in bloom to Kensington Palace, where they were placed inside.

He has about 150 in bud and plans to sell them at £4 to £5 each, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.



Marks with the two special dahlias

Shand Kydd denies rift

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE mother of the Princess yesterday added her voice to denials that there had been a rift between the Royal Family and the Spencers over the burial of her daughter.

In a hand-written statement to the Press Association, Frances Shand Kydd said: "This is a personal plea. I ask please that the two families which are William and Harry's blood, relations may be sustained in our loving hopes and prayers of those two brave boys.

"There is no division, nor has

there been, between their paternal and maternal relations. Grief has no agenda or timetable. Please I ask, personally, allow us individually and collectively to give William and Harry ourselves — and the hugs of the world."

Earl Spencer earlier denied that he clashed with Buckingham Palace over arrangements for his sister's funeral. "To suggest that there were divisions between royal officials and me in the period after my sister's death is so far from the

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How the creation of the Union nearly came to grief

MANY of the passionate arguments that have dominated the 1997 campaign to create a Scottish parliament echo those heard when the last one was abolished, 290 years ago. What is less well known is how close the vote that led to the creation of the Union was — and how nearly the whole arrangement came to collapse.

Within just six years of its establishment the Earl of Seafield, who had commanded the Union in the first place, was on his feet in the House of Lords proposing its dissolution. His motion was very narrowly defeated. The awful warning of 1707 is that the testing time for any new constitutional arrangement Union, said Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, "is the best expedient to preserve the honour

decision itself but the bedding-in process that follows.

Union between Scotland and England was on the cards every since William and Mary were offered the Scottish Crown in 1689. In the following years the economic argument — as now — predominated. Scottish traders found their outlets to foreign ports denied by England's naval strength and an attempt to create a Scottish colony on the Darien peninsula had ended disastrously. But there was a strong sense too that continuing the status quo would ultimately be less stable than a new constitutional arrangement. Union, said Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, "is the best



When Scotland's constitutional status was changed in 1707, it was by dint of manoeuvre, and before long the new arrangements hit trouble, Magnus Linklater writes

and liberties of Scotland". That argument was bitterly opposed. The Scottish people were largely against, and a Union Treaty would have been defeated heavily in the Edinburgh parliament of the day. It took bribery and sharp practice in high quarters to manoeuvre a vote through. Just as Labour proposed an unexpected

referendum in 1997 as a way of heading off opposition, so, in 1707, the Duke of Hamilton, apparently a doughty supporter of continuing independence, introduced a manoeuvre that would win a slim majority of members in support of the treaty.

He suggested that a commission to examine the terms of a possible

Union be set up and headed by Queen Anne. It was a masterstroke — who could object to royalty taking a hand? A division was rushed through and carried late at night by just four votes. No one quite knows how it was done but one estimate suggests that £20,000 in bribes changed hands. The Duke himself was later appointed to the Order of the Thistle and the Garter and made ambassador in Paris.

Astonishingly, he managed to persuade the country that he remained a supporter of independence. When the Union formally came into being on May 1, two years later, a toothache conveniently prevented His Grace being in the House. Any parallels with John

Major's diplomatic toothache at the time of Margaret Thatcher's loss of the Tory leadership are, of course, in deplorably bad taste.

As the old parliament came to an end Lord Seafield, the Chancellor of Scotland, proclaimed: "There's ane end of an auld sang." But he agreed with the Duke of Roxburgh who described the Union's aims as: "Trade with most Hanover with some ease and security with others, together with a general aversion to civil discords..." Soon, however, came riots in Glasgow, rebellions in southwest Scotland, and a French invasion. Far from the Union leading to prosperity, the Scottish economy suffered badly to begin with. In the

British Cabinet, the Scots were unrepresented and Scottish business largely ignored.

By 1713 Lord Seafield was convinced that the Union was not working and proposed a Bill to dissolve it. The Bill failed in the House of Lords by four votes. The treaty was not conclusively entrenched until after the failed Jacobite uprising of 1745. As the historian Michael Lynch comments: "Both the novelty and the half-baked appearance of the proto-British state led many in 1707 to believe they had embarked only on an experiment which might well be reversed."

And there, one trusts, any lingering similarity with 1997 comes to an end.

Two more Labour MPs defy party on Wales

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

REBEL anti-devolution Labour MPs in Wales are ready to defy the Government in the run-up to the referendum vote.

Discussions have been going on between the MPs to stage a joint meeting to publicise their opposition to a Welsh assembly before the vote on Thursday next week. Two more South Wales Labour MPs broke ranks with the party over devolution yesterday. Alan Williams, MP for Swansea West, and Alan Rogers, MP for Rhondda, made clear they would vote "no" in the referendum.

Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said that anti-devolutionists would have no serious impact on the campaign. Polls show Welsh voters two to one in favour of an assembly.

Mr Williams was a junior Minister in the Callaghan administration and was strongly opposed to devolution when the issue was raised in 1979. He wished to make no further comment yesterday.

However Mr Rogers confirmed that he would campaign against devolution.

He said: "I am definitely voting 'no'. I have tried to get ministers to compromise over the Welsh assembly but have not succeeded. I am in favour of devolution and believe in taking democracy to the lowest possible level.

"If it is good enough for Wales and Scotland why is it not good enough for the English regions? Ministers say that will come later. The proposals are a response to the nationalists in Scotland and Wales. A non-legislative, non-tax-raising body as proposed in Wales does not address the democratic deficit. The Government is not even going to abolish the powerful quangos. Adding another layer of bureaucracy does not make them democratic. Another political quango is not an answer to the problem."

Mr Rogers said he would not ally himself with the official "no" campaign but was not going to keep quiet. "If you cannot speak your mind on important issues then you might as well pack up in politics."

Sir Raymond Powell, MP for Ogmore, and Llewelyn Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, have already confirmed they will vote against a Welsh assembly.

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Hague tells Scots to beware of Blair trap

BY NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE fought back last night against Tony Blair's devolution plans, saying that a Scottish parliament was a "dangerous trap" which would prise apart the United Kingdom.

In a speech to Conservative supporters in Glasgow, Mr Hague accused the Prime Minister of endangering Scotland's prosperity and preparing to hand power to Labour's "mob" north of the border. The Tory leader's two-day tour of Scotland had earlier been upstaged by Baroness Thatcher, who was visiting Glasgow.

In his lengthy speech to a Conservative rally at the University of Strathclyde, Mr Hague accused the Labour leadership of "wrapping themselves in the saltire and playing the playground bully" to win a double-yea vote in tomorrow's referendum. "This Government's campaign, using taxpayers' money, to portray opponents of a Scottish parliament as somehow less patriotic, or less Scottish, is a disgrace.

He ridiculed the Government's plan to give the parliament tax-varying powers and said it was nonsense for ministers to say that it would not raise taxes in its first few years. He illustrated the dangers of a different tax regime in Scotland with a tale caricaturing Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, and Mr Blair as travelling salesmen from Glasgow and Sedgfield. The Conservative leader said allegations of sleaze against Scottish Labour officials showed that the party was

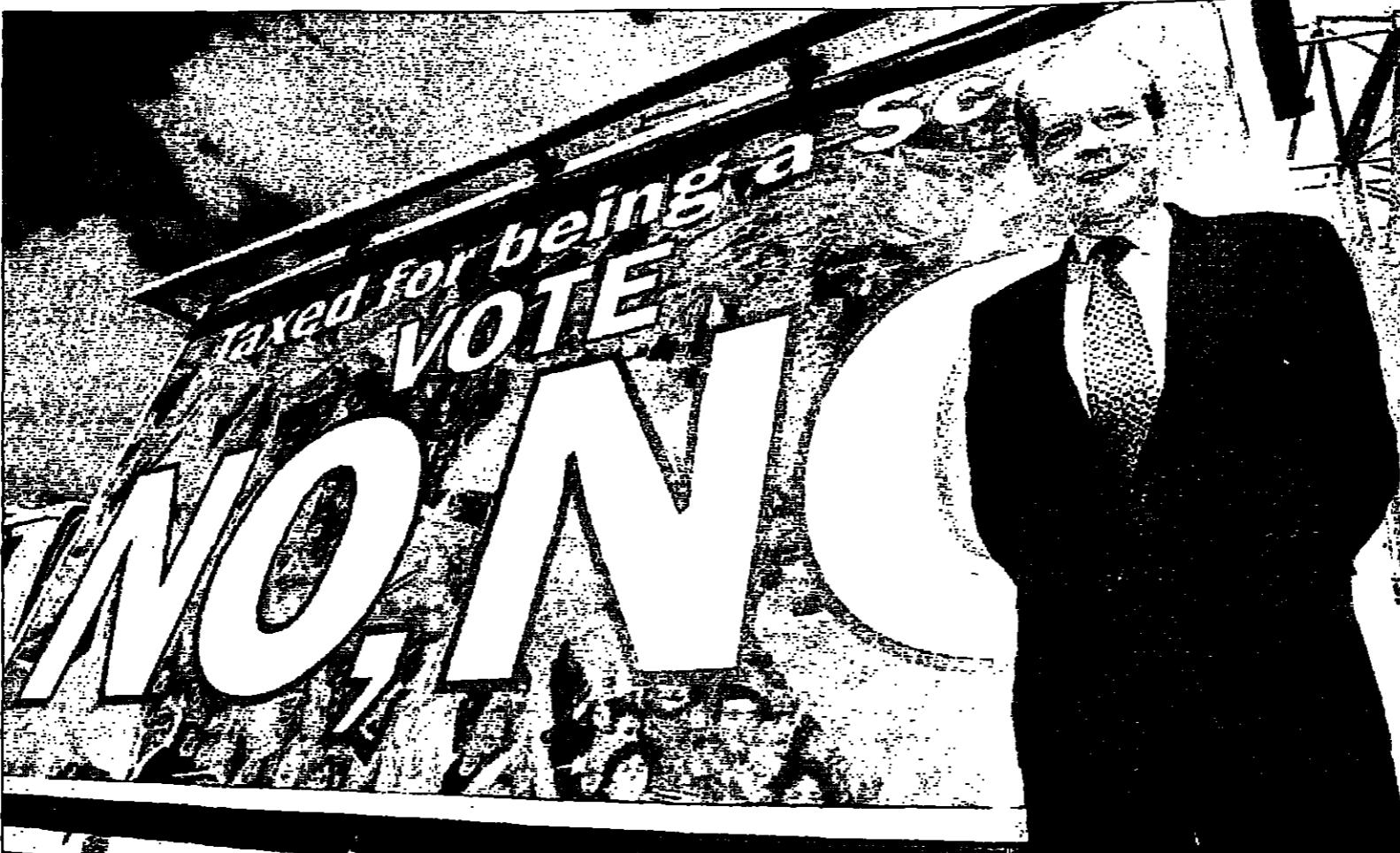
not fit to govern in Scotland: "We've learnt what a thoroughly nasty institution the Scottish Labour Party really is. Labour politics in the 1990s is beginning to look more like the city hall politics of Chicago in the 1920s, except it is not as polite and democratic. Can you believe that this is the mob that wants to stand for the Scottish parliament and run a devolved government?"

The Conservatives believe that they are in a strong position to damage the Government in the Scottish referendum. A senior party source in Scotland said that they could not influence the first decision — whether a parliament should be established — but they had a fighting chance of victory on the second question — whether the parliament should be given tax-varying powers.

Mr Hague's speech came at the end of a day of frenetic campaigning in Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Stirling and Glasgow. He had lunch with pupils at the Royal High School in Edinburgh, where he received a polite but unenthusiastic welcome. His reception on the streets of Linlithgow, where only a few pensioners turned out, was dismal compared with the crowds that were attracted by Mr Blair's visit on Monday.

Mr Hague praised Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, and a staunch opponent of devolution, for his "tireless work" to stop a Scottish parliament.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19



A poster gets Mr Hague's message across in Edinburgh yesterday. He said that Labour's pro-devolution campaign was a disgrace

Thatcher sails into storm after American travel agents' booking

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

BARONESS THATCHER breezed into Scotland yesterday and entered the devolution debate with gusto, upstaging the arrival of William Hague, the Conservative party leader.

As the Conservative and anti-devolution "Think Twice" group prepared to take its "no" campaign into top gear with the support of the Tory leader, Lady Thatcher stepped into the fray and threw their well-laid plans into disarray.

She had been invited to speak at the 67th world conference of the American Soc-

ety of Travel Agents in Glasgow and in the process pick up a five-figure cheque from American Express, rumoured to be £70,000. But her appearance in Scotland, amid tight security, at such a crucial stage in the devolution debate caused some embarrassment in the "no" camp, which had privately been advising her not to speak out on home rule. As architect of the poll tax, Lady Thatcher is believed to be still deeply unpopular in Scotland.

In an interview with *The Scotsman*, published ahead of Mr Hague's arrival yesterday morning, Lady Thatcher called on Scots to vote "no" tomorrow. The Government's devolution plans were a "negation of our shared history and abdication of our joint future", she said. "Scots could do no greater service to their country than to reject them."

Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, said: "Just William arrives in Glasgow to find his headmistress is already there. She is the living memorial as to why Scots want their own parlia-

ment." Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, campaigning in Dundee, said that Mr Hague had been upstaged by the haunting shadow of Lady Thatcher. "Together they will do as much for the 'yes' vote as our own supporters."

Yesterday, Lady Thatcher's agent said that the clash with Mr Hague was an unfortunate coincidence. The diary commitment was agreed more than a year ago, she said, adding that Lady

Thatcher's fee would probably be donated to her favourite charities.

Meanwhile the 5,000 travel delegates, mainly Americans, were surprised to find their conference thrust into the political spotlight. They had come to Glasgow to exchange business cards and to talk about staffing strategies, protecting world monuments and "selling satisfaction". Yesterday they were being asked by journalists about their views on Lady Thatcher's intervention in Scotland's constitutional debate.

"She's such a gutsy lady. We need someone like her in the US," said an uncomprehending David Ranns, 54, from Stiles in Travel, California, brandishing a copy of *USA Today* which carried the headline Scotland Vote May Further Erode Empire.

Rather confused, he continued: "She's for this devolution thing, yeah? My dad was born in Wales. I believed that each country should have their own home rule."

It was not until 12.20pm that Lady Thatcher stepped on stage in the new Clyde Auditorium, known locally as the armadillo because of its shape. She was given a standing ovation even before she uttered a word.

Following her brief, she spoke for 50 minutes about world affairs, about the handover of Hong Kong and terrorism in the Middle East. She confessed her admiration for Bettie Davis and praised Yitzhak Rabin, whose widow Leah had addressed the conference the previous day. She defied expectations by never once mentioning Scotland or her rule.

Her only oblique reference came at the end, when she concluded: "We tend to think of democracy as the will of the majority, expressed in elections freely held. My friends, democracy is about more than that. A vote, a majority vote, won't make something that is fundamentally wrong right. It won't turn what is true into an untruth."

Afterwards, Bebe Hess, 75, from Houston, Texas, was ecstatic. "She is such a fabulously learned woman," she said, waiting outside the International Conference Centre to watch the baroness leave in her chauffeur-driven car. "She's been the highlight of my week."

Mr Rogers said he would not ally himself with the official "no" campaign but was not going to keep quiet. "If you cannot speak your mind on important issues then you might as well pack up in politics."

Sir Raymond Powell, MP for Ogmore, and Llewelyn Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent, have already confirmed they will vote against a Welsh assembly.

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

year before the rest of the country.

Thatcherism, and Lady Thatcher herself, underlined the political distance between London and Edinburgh and helped to revive the flagging devolution cause from the late 1980s. So her remarks yesterday were being presented by the supporters of devolution as personalising their case. I think they exaggerate. Lady Thatcher may be a hate figure to many in Scotland but she is still admired by a minority and she may have persuaded some among the hard core of Tories to go to the polls tomorrow.

But her remarks, and her visit to Glasgow, did not please the opponents of devolution, not least because they overshadowed the delayed visit by Mr Hague. As always, the Tory leader was affable and fluent in his appearances but he somehow seemed irrelevant. He struggled to excite some pupils at the Royal High School, Edinburgh. But their thoughts may have been more on lunch than the West Lothian question. Mr Hague's case

was that the referendum was being rushed; that if the Labour leaders were not going to use the tax-varying powers, why have them at all; and that the proposals would weaken rather than strengthen accountability. So his message was: "Look before you leap." Both Mr Hague and the Think Twice campaign are battling against an apparently decided and unshiftable public mood. A majority of the Scottish public wants a devolved parliament and probably also backs tax-varying powers (as did the pupils of the Royal High School by a similar margin to recent polls). Of course, there are many unresolved questions which Mr Hague raised but

the public seems to be saying that these are for the future.

The public face of the Think Twice campaign is unconvincing — the only Tory MPs are those who have lost their seats in Scotland and returned to the Commons as English MPs, like Michael Ancram, or defeated MPs who have become peers, like Peter Fraser.

In the short term, there is little the Tories can do. Their rout on May 1 leaves them on the margins for the time being — Cassandras without a single constituency to their name. The time for a counterattack will be later, in the elections for the Scottish parliament in 1999. Thanks to the proposals for a proportional system of election, the Tories should gain a sizeable presence in the new parliament. Meanwhile, all they can do is go through the motions in the referendum and repeat their warnings. The Scottish public is not yet ready to listen to the Tories, least of all to Lady Thatcher. They are battling against the spirit of the times in Scotland at present.

PETER RIDDELL



An SNP piper plays at the border yesterday

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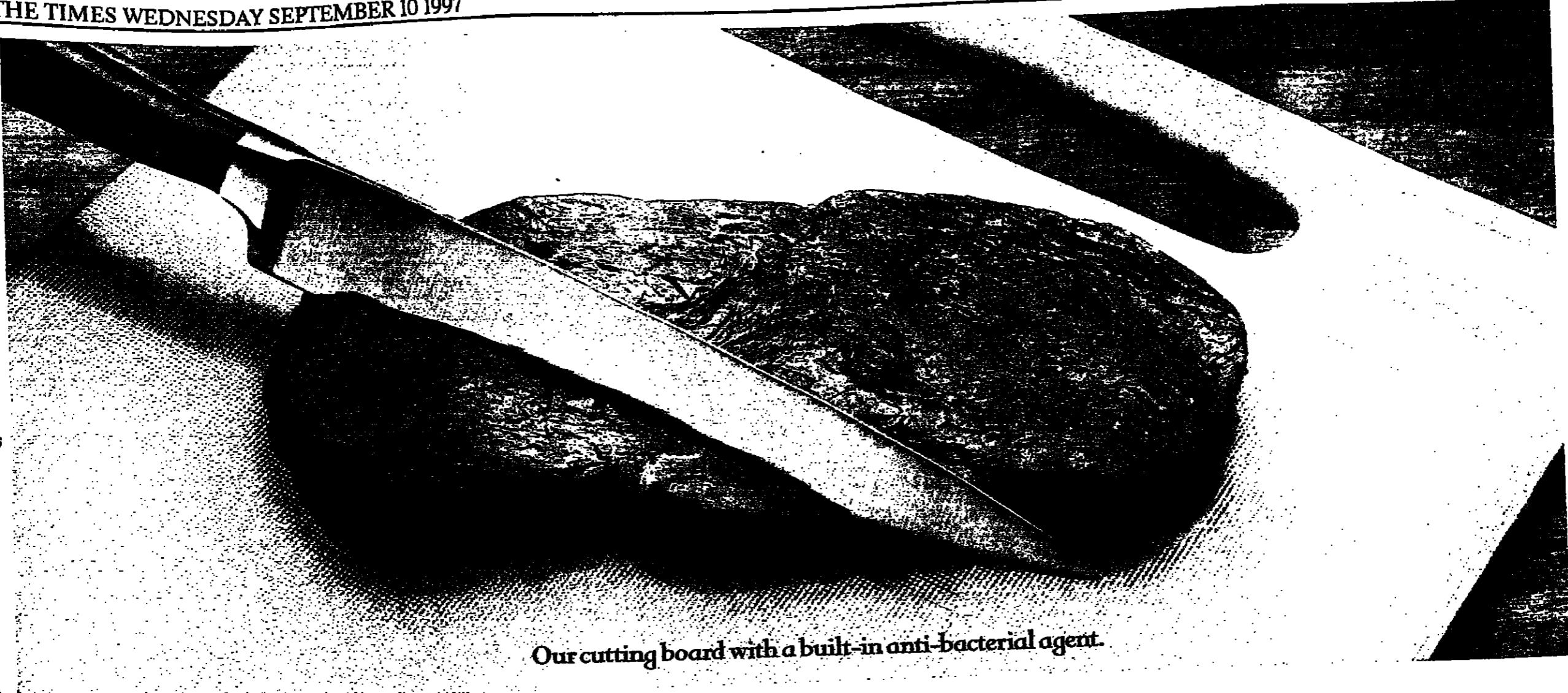
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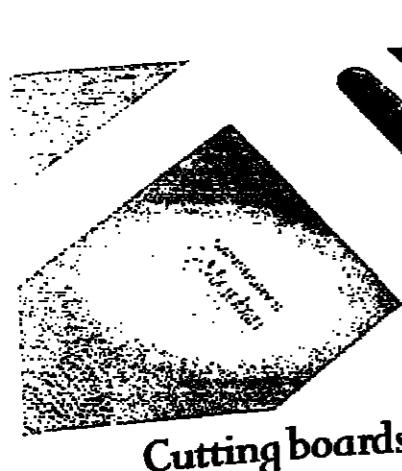
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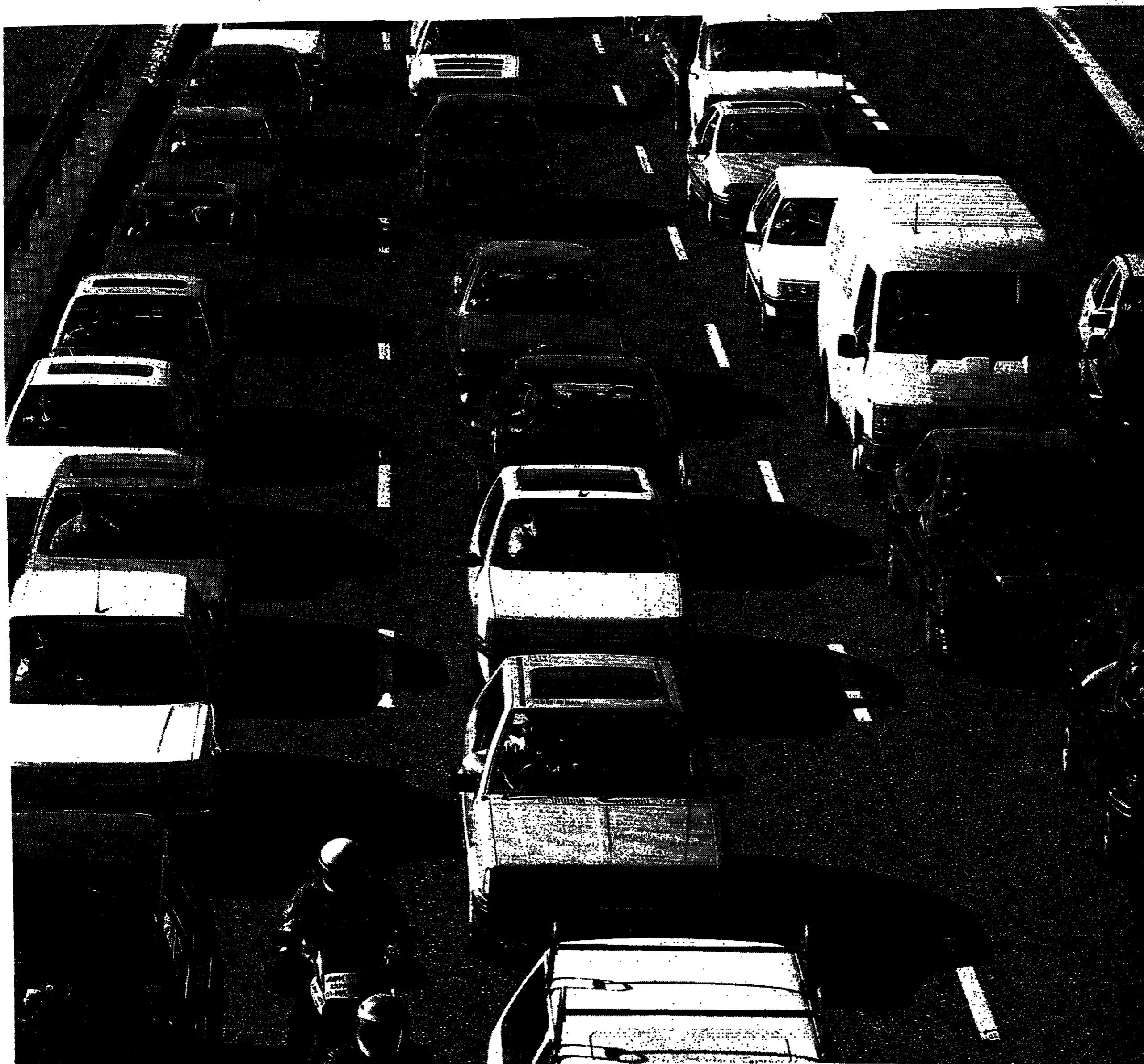
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The floods on the Somerset Levels last month. They have created a wasteland as the water turned toxic in the heatwave that followed

Poison floods recede to reveal lifeless landscape

Farmers seek compensation amid fears for the environment, writes Simon de Bruxelles

BLACK pools of evil-smelling water still disfigure one of Britain's most fragile landscapes, five weeks after the worst summer floods for 30 years.

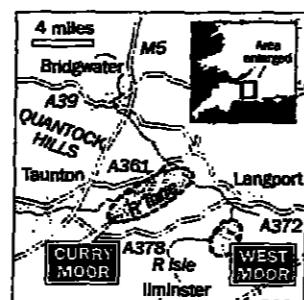
The extent of the disaster which hit parts of the Somerset Levels, the country's most important and heavily protected expanse of low-lying grassland, is only now becoming clear as the waters recede.

Thousands of acres of meadows, rich in wildlife, have been transformed into a sea of mud in which not a living thing remains. Scores of small farmers in the two areas worst affected face economic hardship. Environmentalists fear that rare plants, animals and insects found nowhere else in Britain will take years to recover on the Levels, which were once impenetrable marshland stretching from

the Bristol Channel almost to the Wiltshire borders. By the 19th century an intricate network of drainage ditches had turned much of them into prime agricultural land.

Disaster struck at the beginning of August when four days of torrential rain was swiftly followed by a heatwave. The warm weather caused the lush vegetation to rot, turning the floodwaters into a toxic soup so lethal to wildlife that it could not be pumped into the many rivers flowing through the region without killing everything in them.

The Environment Agency, which was responsible for clearing up the mess, took the controversial decision to wait before draining an estimated 50 million gallons of flood water from the fields. Two weeks ago it began the task of treating the water with exact



quantities of hydrogen peroxide to return its oxygen levels to normal before pumping it back into the rivers.

Tens of thousands of fish died in the two areas worst affected, Curry Moor, east of Taunton, and West Moor, south of Langport. Their bodies littered the fields adding to the general smell.

Larger creatures such as otters, which have lost their

main supply of food, and birds that live off insects have been forced to forage elsewhere, according to Michael Woodhouse, Somerset team leader for English Nature. He said: "We won't be able to gauge the full impact of the damage until spring. Curry Moor is not so badly damaged. What it needs is some heavy autumn rain to flush the black water out of the ditches. West Moor is giving more cause for concern, although I am optimistic that the plants and invertebrates will colonise again given time."

Sir David Naish, the president of the National Farmers Union, who visited the worst-affected areas yesterday, is expected to add to calls for extra flood defences and compensation for the worst-hit farmers. Many farmers will claim that the Environment Agency was at fault for not

pumping the water off their land before the grass began to rot. They are also angry because the pumps that were turned on quickly became clogged, a problem they believe should have been foreseen.

Julian Temperley, a farmer from Kingsbury Episcopi, who believes he has lost a dozen sheep that drank contaminated water, said: "Between them, 30 farmers own 500 acres of West Moor. These are not new barons and the long-term effect of this natural disaster will be serious hardship."

"The days have long gone when a farmer could hold out his hand and a cheque would be placed in it, but there has to be some degree of co-operation between the farmers and agencies and so far there has been none."

Country life is not so sweet for townies

By IAN MURRAY

THE pungent smells of the countryside are getting up the nose of city-dwellers who move out to live in what they believe will be a quiet rural setting. They are bombarding environmental health officers with complaints about natural farmyard smells.

The number who rang their local authority to protest about "agricultural odours" last year rose by 19 per cent to 9,005, according to a report issued yesterday by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. Simon Wil-

liams, its spokesman, said: "It would appear that when people move from urban areas, they have ideas that country is clean and noiseless. But this idea is rapidly put to rest by farmyard smells, the noise of farm machinery and cockerels crowing. These people do not realise that the country can be as noisy and smelly as towns."

Tegwyn Jones, environmental health manager for South Somerset District Council, said: "It's wrong to expect to live in the country and expect it to be odour free. People have to realise that when you live in the country you are

surrounded by a modern agricultural industry."

He believes that smells on farms have become fouler in past few years because farming has become more intensive. "The pig and poultry farms are getting smellier," he said.

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union said: "We feel everyone in the countryside has to learn to co-operate and live together. We believe the influx in people from towns to the country has contributed to the rise in complaints. Part of that is not being accustomed to farmyard smells."

He said union members were usually not doing anything wrong. "Out of the 9,000 complaints last year there were just two prosecutions and 60 cases of notices served to clear up the cause of the nuisance. To avoid trouble in future we urge our members to follow our code of good practice, such as disposing of manure downwind."

Under environmental health legislation farmers are expected to do everything practical to eliminate smells but if they persist at an unreasonable level they can be prosecuted.

Dieting makes you dimmer, if not slimmer

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DIETERS use up so much brainpower thinking about food that their working memory capacity shrinks, according to psychologists. The researchers found that a desire to eat created a form of anxiety that made it difficult to complete tasks efficiently.

Earlier research has shown that worry about weight and eating can be counterproductive and that dieting may lead to psychological problems, manifested in an increase in alcohol consumption, laxative abuse or vomiting.

Tests have also shown that crash dieters do not perform tasks as well as those who habitually restrict food intake to maintain their weight. After a series of tests on 69 women undergraduates aged 18 to 35, psychologists from the Institute of Food Research at Reading concluded that the mental stress of dieting was responsible for poor performance by those trying to lose weight.

Dieting to lose weight is associated with an increase in thoughts about food, urges to

eat and a general preoccupation with food-related cognitions," the researchers write in the *British Journal of Health Psychology* published today.

The researchers concentrated on women because they consider that dieting is an activity which for many women can become a major preoccupation. That was true of only a few men.

The women were divided into three groups: dieters, those who habitually restricted their food intake and those who ate what they liked.

A series of questions discovered that those on diets were found to be up to five times more anxious to eat and nearly twice as hungry as those who restricted their intake.

In memory tests the dieters came out consistently worse than the others, even though they showed a similar ability to concentrate. There was no evidence that the dieters were less motivated to perform well. The study concludes that thoughts about food and a greater desire to eat probably reduces the capacity of the memory.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Murdered woman's handbag discovered

The handbag of Rachel Barracough was found yesterday in a undergrowth three quarters of a mile from where the teenager's body was discovered on Sunday. Nothing had been taken from the bag, ruling out robbery as a motive for the attack.

Rachel Barracough, 18, was stabbed to death at Heath Common, near Wakefield. She was not sexually assaulted and police believe that she probably knew the killer. She had travelled from her home in Bradford, where she lived with her parents, to visit a nightclub in Wakefield with friends.

Husband bailed

Gordon Park, charged with the murder of his former wife Carol, whose body was found in Coniston Water, was released on bail yesterday on condition he lives at an address in Manchester, observes a 10pm-6am curfew and reports to police twice a week.

NVQs pass test

Companies are at last showing enthusiasm for National Vocational Qualifications, the work-based study schemes. A study by the Confederation of British Industry of 40 companies showed "overwhelming support" for NVQs introduced in 1988.

Fireman banned

A fireman who crashed his engine on the way to a 999 call was yesterday banned from driving. Teddy Thomson, 40, who was injured in the accident, pleaded guilty to recklessly driving the vehicle at 50mph in a 40mph zone on the Aberdeen ring road.

Stowaways held

Two Sri Lankan stowaways are being questioned by immigration officers after they were seen in difficulties in the Solent at Southampton. They jumped over the side of a container ship moored in the harbour and were rescued by two fishermen.

In the doghouse

A policeman called to a shop after a stray labrador walked in and began eating dog biscuits found the animal was his own pet. The dog had slipped out of PC Bill De Gama's house in Oundle, Northamptonshire, while the front door was being painted.

One last port

A British tourist in Ibiza woke up on a fishing boat bound for mainland Spain after drinking with friends. Neil Hyres, 22, a lorry driver, helped the crew until he landed on the Costa Blanca, where police decided he had committed no offence.

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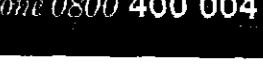
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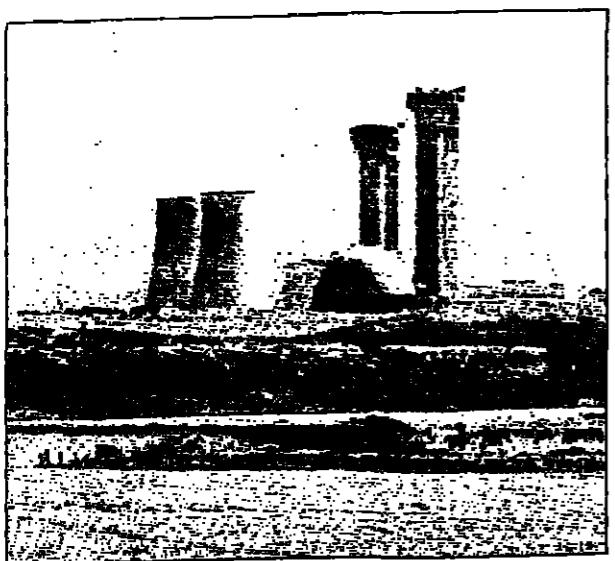
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Robots will dismantle debris from Windscale fire



The damaged Pile 1 stands behind Sellafield's dome

WORK to dismantle the damaged atomic reactor responsible for the Windscale fire in 1957 will take eight years and cost £54 million.

The UK Atomic Energy Authority announced the appointment yesterday of a consortium led by BNFL to remove, process and store fuel rods sealed inside Windscale Pile 1 and its 40ft chimney, which spewed a plume of radioactive iodine across Cumbria.

The fire on October 10, 1957, at Windscale Atomic Works, since renamed Sellafield, remains Britain's worst nuclear accident and in world terms second only to the meltdown at Chernobyl. It started when the fuel rods overheated. Emergency services tried to cool the fire with water, releasing large amounts of radioactive steam and smoke in a southwesterly direction from the Cumbrian coast. Although

Russell Jenkins reports on the launching of an eight-year project to uncover Sellafield's entombed nuclear fuel rods at a cost of £54m

the plume of smoke could be seen from miles away, the people of nearby Seascale were not warned of the dangers from nuclear fallout for more than a day.

The authorities swiftly reassured residents and farmers that there was nothing to be alarmed about and that the cloud had blown harmlessly out to sea. However, milk from the surrounding area was tested to be six times the legal limit for radio-iodine and its sale was banned.

Residents, believed to have been subjected to many times the acceptable limit of radioactivity, have blamed dozens of deaths from leukaemia, bone marrow and

thyroid cancers on the fire. Windscale Pile 1, now encased in a corrugated iron shell, was a primitive air-cooled graphite reactor, turning uranium bars into weapons-grade plutonium for Britain's early atomic bomb programme. Up to 15 tonnes of nuclear fuel cartridges are estimated to be trapped inside the core. Experts are unsure how damaged it is.

The reactor was mothballed for care and maintenance but the concrete shield has grown increasingly unstable with age. The contract, which comes 11 years after plans were first mooted, was officially signed in front of press photographers assembled on the

top of the pile cap. They were standing on 2,000 tonnes of machined graphite blocks assembled in a hexagonal stack, 50ft in diameter and 25ft long, surrounded by a biological shield of 7ft-thick reinforced concrete.

The consortium, led by BNFL and aided by Nukem and Rolls-Royce Nuclear Engineering Services, will envelope the core in inert argon gas to prevent any threat of fire. Four robotic arms called heavy-duty manipulators, driven into the core at each corner, will be used to remove the fuel. Workers will operate the arms remotely, guided by television monitors, to place radioactive waste into skips.

Preparatory work to isolate the bio-shield, provide a filtered ventilation system and decontaminate the surroundings has been going on for four years. Remote-control robots, like those used for bomb disposal, have cleared broken fuel rods from air ducts. "Swimming" robots have retrieved material from water ducts.

BARRY HICKEY, head of decommissioning at Sellafield, gave an assurance that the work, which will create up to 200 jobs, is safe. He said it would be monitored and appraised at every stage by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

He said that the original accident and the response of the authorities should be viewed in the context of the time, when Britain was anxious to play a role in the Cold War as a nuclear power. "There were a lot of valuable lessons learnt and they were put into effect," he said.

The heavy price of mobile phones

THE mobile phone has saved the average user ten miles of walking a year, an obesity expert said yesterday.

It may not sound like much, but combined with other aspects of lazy modern living, the mobile phone is helping to fuel an explosion of obesity, according to Dr Andrew Prentice of the Dunn Clinical Nutrition Centre.

Television remote controls, computers, escalators, lifts and power steering in cars were other examples of technology contributing to the paradox that although people ate less than in the past, they were getting fatter.

Bad diet alone could not explain the rise in obesity, Dr Prentice said. During the 20th century the average weight of adults in Britain had increased by almost 10kg (22lb) and the number of clinically obese people had more than doubled since 1980.

High fat consumption was partly to blame but the problem could largely be put down to labour-saving devices, Dr Prentice told the association.

Satellites in water hunt

Satellites are coming to the aid of the Bedouin tribesmen. Researchers are using satellite images to detect areas of desert rich in moisture.

Each winter the Bedouin of Jordan and their animals cross the desert in search of food. Kevin Tansey, of Leicester University, said scientists were looking to see if images from the European Space Agency's remote sensing satellites can help.

He is devising a computer prediction system able to advise the Bedouin on areas, after rainfalls, with moisture levels to produce feed plants. Portable satellite dishes could then relay the information to the tribesmen.

New clue to climate

Climate changes in the past 15,000 years are reflected in fossilised midges, a study of two lakes in Scotland shows.

Changes to the size and composition of the midge population have disclosed occasions when average summer temperatures changed markedly in a short space of time.

Today, such changes could

devastate agriculture and affect water supplies. Fossilised midge larvae held in sediments at Whiting Bog and Lochan Uaine were studied.

Dr Steve Brooks, of the Natural History Museum, addressing the British Association, said the results would be used to improve forecasts of climate change.

Israeli to Syria of Albr

The stereotypes that make scientists mad

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH ASSOCIATION
REPORTS BY NIGEL HAWKES
AND NICK NUTTALL



Maddening scientists: Dr Strangelove, Mr Spock, Back to the Future and Honey, I Shrunk the Kids



sor makes mistakes through over-enthusiasm but eventually redeems the situation. The Back to the Future film series and Honey, I Shrunk the Kids are recent examples of the genre, which requires the protagonist to be a classic nerd whose good intentions are not

matched by a fully developed realisation of their moral implications.

Two further categories are the helpless scientist, well-intentioned but the victim of malevolent governments or situations beyond his control, and the scientist as an idealist.

Leading article, page 19



The Majorca cave that was about to be used as a sewage sump for an hotel

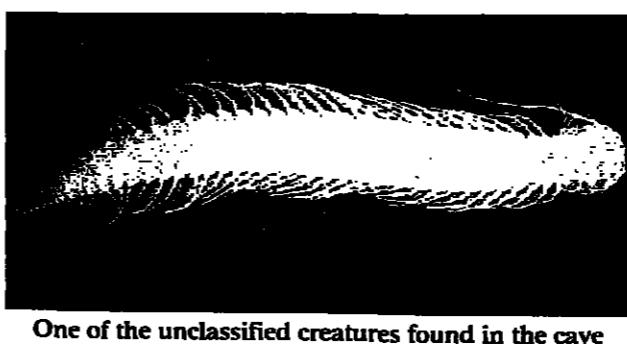
New species found in holiday island cave

A FLOODED cave discovered by accident on Majorca contains many species new to science, the association meeting was told.

Professor Geoff Boxshall, of the Natural History Museum, said that the cave was festooned with the richest array of stalagmites and stalactites he has ever seen. "Yet it was discovered by workmen who were digging a sump into which they were going to pump untreated, the sewage and waste water from a new hotel."

The threat has been averted, he hopes, but he is still sworn to secrecy over the cave's exact location. It is in the south-eastern corner of the island, near the resort of Cala d'Or. He told the meeting that he recently spent eight hours swimming through the cave, which was like a forest of stalactites with caverns as high as 60ft and extending for several kilometres beneath hotels and holiday villas near Cala Pi.

Working with a Spanish colleague, Dr Damiá Jaume, he set bait traps in the cave and caught a range of new species of crustaceans. The



One of the unclassified creatures found in the cave

caves, which are not directly connected to the sea, are filled with water that feeds through rock fissures.

The creatures collected include a new species of freshwater shrimp, which lives in the deepest recesses of the cave, where the water is brackish rather than salt, and several species of copepods, smaller shrimps known as the "insects of the sea" and about the size of a grain of rice.

The creatures are blind — sight would be of little use to them because the caves are dark — and they find their food by homing on chemical signals. They have enlarged sensors on their antennae to enable them to

detect the molecules diffusing through the water that indicate the whereabouts of food.

The cave was discovered about a year ago and legal moves to give it protected status are almost completed, Professor Boxshall said. To convince Spanish government officials of its value, one was persuaded to take a swim through the cave.

Majorca is not the only holiday island with caves full of unique species, he said. In the Canaries, Bermuda and the Bahamas similar caves have been explored and all have species never before identified. All are under potential threat because of holiday development.

Snow 'gives science a bad name'

THE legacy of C. P. Snow and his "ignorant certainty" about the existence of two cultures — one scientific, the other artistic — dogs the intellectual life of Britain, a historian of science told the meeting.

Snow had disproved his own theory by continuing to be taken seriously, a testimony to the importance of science in British culture, said David Edgerton, director of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at Imperial College, London.

He said Snow's controversial lecture, *Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*, was still in print 38 years after it was delivered, and the writer was still widely cited in academic journals. "Snow is still

ton said. He had disproved the theory himself, being a man renowned as both a novelist and a physicist as well as a senior civil servant, and had given no evidence for the claims he made. Snow ignored the fact that by 1959, when he gave the lecture, more students in Britain were studying science and technology than arts and social sciences.

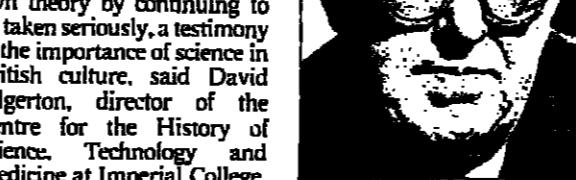
Britain was not deficient in graduates in engineering and science compared with France and Germany. Also, Snow's portrayal of 19th-century science as the "cultured" south had ignored swaths of engineers and scientists including Charles Babbage and Michael Faraday.

"Snow has no explanation

for the rise of British science only for its failure to exist," Dr Edgerton said. "We should take Snow not as a guide to the problem, but as exemplary of the poverty of commentary on science in 20th-century Britain."

Snow, he said, "is a good example of the declinist whingeing about traditional British culture which remains very popular among scientists and engineers". But fresh voices were appearing and there was growing recognition that complaining about the state of science and engineering was not helping to attract students or recognition.

"For science and technology, Snow is part of the problem, not the solution," Dr Edgerton concluded.



C.P. Snow

the first reference point for popular discussion of science in Britain," Dr Edgerton said.

Yet Snow, who died in 1980 at the age of 74, had been profoundly wrong, Dr Edger-

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Whitney Houston, one of the most successful female artists in history.

Mubarak warns Netanyahu of alienated Arabs rallying to Iran

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE gravity of the security crisis facing Madeleine Albright in the Middle East was highlighted yesterday in two personal messages to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, from President Mubarak of Egypt, one warning that the peace process is "going down the drain".

According to *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv newspaper, the first part of the diplomatic broadside was an angry seven-page letter; the second,

delivered through an unnamed intermediary this week, gave a verbal warning about the dangers that lie ahead in the region.

The American Secretary of State, who arrives in the region today, is due to visit Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and will concentrate on trying to rescue the deadlocked peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Sources quoted Mr Mubarak as asking Mr Netanyahu in the verbal message: "What will happen in the Arab world if there is a feeling that

Iran is becoming more moderate as a result of the election of [President Mohammad] Khatami in contrast to Israel where there is a feeling of growing extremism? The result could be a trend of co-operation with Iran. Can Egypt stop this trend without a peace process?"

Mr Mubarak, regarded as one of the more moderate Arab leaders, added that if "there was no movement towards peace in the coming months, it could cause a strategic change in the Middle East with negative results for all moderate

forces." The Egyptian leader, a noted opponent of Muslim extremists, said: "All that was built by the last Israeli Government is going down the drain."

The current deadlock in the peace talks began in March when Israel started building a settlement for 32,000 Jews in annexed east Jerusalem. The situation has deteriorated with five suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem since July 30 in which 20 Israelis have been killed and scores more injured.

Haaretz said the verbal message

came after a "stinging" letter from Mr Mubarak last week in which he chided the Israeli leader over the case of Azam Azam, an Israeli Druze convicted this month in Cairo of spying for Israel. Mr Netanyahu denied that he was a spy and publicly described the verdict and the 15-year sentence as "twisted". He urged Mr Mubarak to pardon the Druze.

"One citizen cannot ignore 62 million citizens," Mr Mubarak told the Israeli leader with a sharpness that reflects the deep gulf existing

between Israel and Egypt. "You are not the only one who has a domestic public opinion."

Mr Mubarak also referred to an incident, not previously disclosed, in which an Israeli businessman suspected of spying was secretly deported from Egypt. This occurred three months before the arrest of Azam last year on the eve of a crucial Israeli-Arab economic conference.

The Egyptian leader, regarded by America as the main Arab conduit for keeping the peace

process alive, criticised Mr Netanyahu's office for using the Azam verdict as a basis on which to condemn the Egyptian legal system. Mr Mubarak also criticised David Bar-Ilan, Mr Netanyahu's communications director.

Yesterday, Mr Bar-Ilan said he had no information about the message quoted by *Haaretz*, but confirmed that a letter from Mr Mubarak had been delivered to the Prime Minister. "I have not seen [it] and we do not usually comment on private messages," he said.

ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY / REUTERS



A Latin inscription on a mosaic in Caesarea which reads: "Advisoribus offici custodiar" (I came to this office — I shall be secure)

Archaeologists uncover site of St Paul's prison

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

IN AN attempt to break the deadlock between Israel and Syria, a senior adviser to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, held "secret talks" in Europe in advance of today's arrival of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, on a peace mission.

Israel Radio said the talks were focused on resuming peace talks which collapsed when Mr Netanyahu won the May 1996 election. The radio named the adviser as Uzi Arad, an expert on Arab affairs, but did not identify in which country or with whom the discussions were held.

During Ms Albright's shuttle mission — her first to the region since taking office eight months ago — she is due to visit Syria, Jordan, Israel and the autonomous Palestinian areas.

News of the secret talks came as Ehud Barak, the opposition Labour leader and a former chief of staff, was predicting the outbreak of a new war with Syria unless peace was achieved. Damascus has accused Mr Netanyahu's Government of backtracking on what it said were promises by the previous Labour administration to withdraw from the whole of the Golan Heights in exchange for full peace.

Earlier yesterday, *Yediot Aharonot* the Tel Aviv newspaper, revealed that in the past few days Israel had

passed secret messages to Syria about Israel's alleged readiness to discuss new ideas for a renewal of negotiations.

An official in the Prime Minister's office told *Yediot* that if his government partners found out how far he was willing to go, the coalition would collapse.

According to the official, Mr Netanyahu authorised civil servants to inform the Syrians that he would be prepared to adopt the formula once put forward by the late Yitzhak Rabin linking the extent of withdrawal from the Golan Heights with the depth of peace with Syria.

Yediot added: "The Prime Minister denied the claim, but the most right-wing sources close to him confirmed in the past few days that the messages passed to Syria recently were meant to bring about a breakthrough in the stalemate of peace."

According to American sources, Ms Albright will use her visit to make a serious effort to revive the Israeli-Syrian talks in the hope that President Assad and Mr Netanyahu are, for their own different reasons, "almost desperate" to resume the negotiations broken off early last year. Since the collapse there have been repeated war scares as a result of Syrian troop movements in Lebanon. Senior Israeli officials believe that any agreement with Syria could help Israel withdraw its

troops from Lebanon. This costly involvement is becoming increasingly unpopular.

For the Americans, even mild progress on the Syrian front could help to divert attention from the enormous difficulties facing Ms Albright in building trust between Israel and the Palestinians, whose peace negotiations have been dormant since March when Israel began building a huge new Jewish settlement at Har Homa in east Jerusalem.

Yesterday, Israel and the Palestinian Authority continued to blame each other for the crisis in peace-making which, according to a Jordanian newspaper, prompted Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to threaten to resign at the weekend. He was dissuaded by King Hussein of Jordan and President Mubarak of Egypt. Both are deeply critical of Israeli policy.

Israel yesterday demanded that Ms Albright persuade Mr Arafat to crush the Islamic groups operating in the West Bank and Gaza areas under his control. It dismissed the Palestinian police round-up of 35 militants as insufficient. Mr Netanyahu's office also issued a list of ten security demands which it said Mr Arafat had to fulfil to ensure "the integrity of the peace process".

Ms Albright is due to meet Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat separately and to visit victims of the five recent suicide attacks in Jerusalem.



St Paul detained at Herod's praetorium

seal of Roman government in the Province of Judea, later renamed Palestine, from the start of the 1st century AD until the middle of the 3rd century," said Yosef Porath, who is in charge of operations by the Israeli Antiquities Authority.

The discovery was made in the Mediterranean coastal village of Caesarea on the site of Strato's tower, an ancient anchorage. The fortified town served traders plying between Phoenicia and Egypt. A fortified town gradually developed which changed hand many times before being given to Herod the Great by the Emperor Augustus in 30 BC.

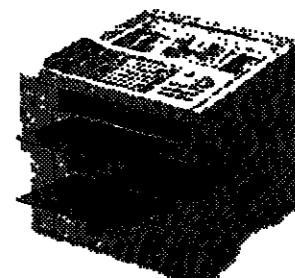
The complex includes a palace, offices, a bathhouse and courtyards. "The praetorium complex served as the

soul of Tarsus. He was imprisoned in Herod's praetorium in Caesarea from AD 58 to 60 until, as a Roman citizen, he appealed to the Roman Governor against being handed over to opponents in Jerusalem who had accused him of preaching against Mosaic law. "I stand at Caesar's judgment seat where I ought to be judged. To the Jews I have done no wrong as thou very well knowest," Paul said in Acts 25:10. "For if I am an offender, or have committed anything worthy of death, I refuse not to die. But if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them."

He was taken to Rome for trial and eventually killed during Nero's persecution of the Christians. Mr Porath said that experts believed that the hearing room lay in the part of the compound still to be excavated. Mr Porath added that the complex was the only seat of Roman government to be unearthed in Israel.

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Clinton finds unions riding high and ready for battle



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX

THE unions are back. As President Clinton goes into battle with Congress this morning over trade, it is organised labour, not the Republicans, who are his real foes.

Suddenly, after decades of decline, the unions are everywhere. San Francisco yesterday, hit by a transport strike, saw queues a mile long form at dawn for the lone ferry struggling across the bay. Ohio's teachers have walked out. Above all, the Teamsters' Union, whose reach spans the nation, now believes it is riding high after its greatest triumph for years: the 15-day United Parcel Service strike by 185,000 workers, the biggest in the nation for 14 years, which won new rights for part-time workers.

Ron Carey, the Teamsters' president, called it an "historic turning point for working people". Whether that is true depends on how he plays his star-studded good hand of cards on Capitol Hill.

To the amazement of White House aides, the unions face them at every twist and turn of the next six weeks packed

ship rolls. John Sweeney, the president, aims at a modest growth of 2 or 3 per cent a year" by scooping up those pushed off welfare rolls into low-pay jobs, female part-time workers and California strawberry pickers.

As a result, politicians are running scared. In New York, the decision by unions to back Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican Mayor, shocked Democrats who assumed that they had an eternal lock on the union vote. On the national stage, Vice-President Al Gore and Richard Gephardt, who are battling for the Democratic candidacy in the 2000 presidential race, are tripping over themselves to court organised labour.

It often suits American politicians to portray Britain and the rest of Europe as a union haven, a fortress of workers' rights and welfare. But the careful arm's length that Tony Blair has put between himself and the unions almost seems to give him more leeway to ignore their views than his US counterparts enjoy.

TUC reports, page 26

Greens outraged by widow's plots

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN NEW YORK

A WEALTHY widow, often described as the most beautiful septuagenarian in America, has enraged Green groups by a plan to divide 15,000 acres of private forest in the Adirondacks, the vast parkland in the northeast of New York state, into 40 plots for sale.

Marylou Whitney, 71, one of America's richest women. The widow of Cornelius Vanderbilt ("Sonny") Whitney, who founded Pan American Airways and also paid for making the film *Gone with the Wind*, she announced her engagement recently to a burly 32-year-old called John Hendrickson.

Earlier this year Mrs Whitney and her paramour decided to sell the 15,000-acre tract in the Adirondacks, forested

with spruce, pine, hemlock and an attractive gamut of deciduous trees. Mr Hendrickson took charge of the project. Although an asking price for the land has never been announced, *The Times Union*, a newspaper in Albany, the state capital, reported in July that Mr Hendrickson would entertain offers in the range of \$28.8 million (£18 million) to \$84.8 million for the entire tract.

George Pataki, the Governor of New York state, moved swiftly to buy the land and add it to the state-owned natural park alongside it. His \$14 million offer, however, earned only derision from Mr Hendrickson.

The Whitney camp entered a pre-contractual agreement with a couple from Connecticut for the sale of a 55-acre lakeside plot called Camp Bliss. They also outlined

plans to build a hotel, general store, restaurant and clubhouse on the tract. This made the Greens see red, and set off environmental alarms.

Since Mr Hendrickson showed no sign of climbing down, a non-profit Green group called Nature Conservancy stepped in, offering to buy the land at a higher price than the state and then to resell it to the state for \$14 million — Mr Pataki's original offer. It is reported that the group has offered \$21 million. That too, has been rejected.

But the Connecticut couple have accepted \$75,000 from Nature Conservancy for withdrawing their offer for the Camp Bliss plot — and Mrs Whitney has been paid \$500,000 for the aborted deal. The Whitney camp has also agreed to make no more sales until January 1998.

Whitney: one of richest women in America

Victim of Mao tipped for China leadership post

THE Chinese Communist Party has been unable to suppress signals that the next Prime Minister will be Zhu Rongji, despite traditional attempts to maintain secrecy before the party congress.

Mr Zhu is currently vice-premier in charge of economic reform and is widely seen as the man behind China's successful negotiation out of a period of high inflation while avoiding serious disruption. For many years, starting in the late 1950s, Mr Zhu was in political disgrace and often languished in detention. Few of China's other current leaders were victims of Maoism.

The Central Committee is also said to have decided to cut the number of state-owned industries from 13,000 to 3,000, which would reduce the state's stake in the industrial economy from 40 to 20 per cent. There are at least 700,000 workers in state firms and many central officials fear an increase in already trouble-some industrial unrest if many are sacked. But the state industries are heavy money losers.

Apart from the premiership, other top leadership positions are in dispute. The 13th Congress of the Central Committee, opening on Friday, will begin to ratify top leadership positions for the next five years. Already there are leaks of a row which has begun about the future of two of the central figures in the supreme Standing Committee of the Politburo.

Li Peng, due to retire as Prime Minister, is favoured by President Jiang Zemin for chairman of the National People's Congress. But this position is already held by Qiao Shi, another grantees who is also said to be in overall charge of state security. Mr Jiang, eager to avoid a serious split, may try to persuade Mr Li to accept the chairmanship of the Central Commission for Disciplinary Inspection, the leading organ for fighting official corruption, which most Chinese regard as the primary national challenge. Mr Li is said to prefer the title of State President. Mr Jiang,

Congress is set to reform state economics, write Jonathan Mirsky and James Pringle

however, who is party General Secretary and Chairman of the Military Commission as well as President, will not yield.

The party, trying to stanch the leaks, is threatening punishment for those who reveal information about the congress, especially to foreigners, and it is said that officials are now forbidden to read foreign newspapers.

In a further development Bao Ge, one of the few dissidents not in exile or prison, has published an open letter to Mr Jiang calling for a reversal of the verdict on the 1989 Tiananmen killings, officially called a "counter-revolutionary incident", and the most painful lingering dilemma in China.

Writing from Shanghai, Mr Bao referred to the national wave of peasant and worker demonstrations as a sign that Chinese want democracy. He suggested that the body of Chairman Mao, now mummified in Tiananmen, should be



Zhu spent years in political disgrace

cremated as a sign that in death he has no further influence.

Although courageous, the influence of such letters is generally short-lived in Beijing at such times and their writers are usually detained. It would mark a change if Mr Bao remained at liberty.

In the midst of this controversy, certain other traditions – especially the praise of top leaders – remain.

The official press now claims that this is the happiest period in China's 3,000-year history, and that Mr Jiang has succeeded where even Mao and Deng Xiaoping failed. The position of Mr Jiang as what Deng called "the core", is being vigorously promoted. Last month a book was published in which his ideas were elevated to the status of "thought", which had been limited to Mao and Deng.

Now the official *China Daily*, a sister publication of the party's mouthpiece, the *People's Daily*, has declared that "China is in the midst of its best period in history", with "Jiang Zemin at the core".

In a rare fundamental criticism of Mao and Deng, the article observed that "the previous two generations failed" to deal with the problems of tax reform, controlling the economy and narrowing the gap between rich and poor. Under Mr Jiang's "core leadership", however, the article observes, taxes have swelled the state treasury, the previously overheated economy has achieved a soft landing, and prosperity has become more common across the country.

Meanwhile, nearly two and a half years after being toppled as Beijing's party chief, Chen Xitong, the former Secretary of the Beijing Municipal Party Committee has been expelled from the party for corruption.

Xinhua, the official news agency, said the decision to expel the 67-year-old was taken by the party's Discipline Inspection Commission. He is the highest party official to be expelled in recent years, observers said.

Although Ali's slurred speech and jolting movements continue to break the



Ali, with his wife Lonnie, throws a jab to make light of his crippling disability

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

MUHAMMAD ALI, arguably the most popular sportsman this century, has given his most detailed account to date of the Parkinson's disease from which he suffers.

"I'm still the greatest," Ali told reporters in Chicago, his irrepressible vanity undimmed by years of illness. Speaking at a press conference organised by Pharmacia & Upjohn, an American pharmaceuticals company, the former world heavyweight champion said there was no necessary link between the degenerative brain disorder and boxing. Whispering hoarsely, he added: "Boxing's much tougher" than the disease.

Although Ali's slurred speech and jolting movements continue to break the

hearts of those who once saw him float like a butterfly and sting like a bee, the occasion did at least show that "The Greatest" was in buoyant spirits. His wife, Lonnie, was with him and together they appealed for a greater public

awareness of the disease. Ali's condition, which affects more than 1.5 million Americans, has led to a shuffling walk, frozen facial expression and shaking hands, all shown worldwide when he lit the flame at the Olympic Games in Atlanta last year.

Ali's wife said: "Muhammad has refused to let Parkinson's slow him down ... we are planning to build a gym where he will work out daily, hitting the bag and sparring."

She said he walked up to five miles a day, but Ali cheerfully disagreed with her, shaking his head and holding up all ten fingers.

At the end of the meeting, Ali and his wife were given a pair of red boxing gloves. Rising to his feet and arching his eyelids, he delivered a jab: "I come all the way here, give you a nice little talk, and this is all you give me!"



The Greatest: when his fists ruled the world

40,000 to go free in Russian amnesty

Joking Ali knocks his illness

BOTSWANA government officials are involved in "apartheid-style" forced removals of Bushmen from their ancestral homelands in the central Kalahari Desert, cutting off water supplies and threatening the hunter-gatherers with attack by the army.

The First People of the Kalahari, a human rights group, said yesterday that hundreds of Bushmen had been driven from their lands and forced to live in arid villages outside the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in the past few weeks.

The "forced removal" of Bushmen from "Gope and Xade to New Xade" outside the reserve flies in the face of calls for a moratorium on the movements until an international fact-finding mission has visited the area and been able to produce a report.

The Government seems bent on making sure that as many people are moved out as possible before anyone visits the central Kalahari," said Chris Erni, spokesman for the First People, which was due to participate in the mission later this month.

About 1,500 Bushmen still live as hunter-gatherers in the central Kalahari and are among Africa's last people to depend on the fruits of the wild to survive. The only other people to live a roughly similar traditional life are the Twa, or Pygmies, of central Africa.

The Kalahari Bushmen were celebrated for their gentleness and closeness to nature by Sir Laurens van der Post, who died this year and had been for many years a confidant of the Prince of Wales.

The Botswana Government, dominated by the Tswana, a Bantu ethnic group, consider the Bushmen an embarrassment. Officials refer to the Bushmen openly as "savages" or "stone age creatures".

International protests at plans to move the Bushmen from their home territories earlier this year resulted in demands from members of the House of Lords in London that the Botswana Government should end the relocation policy. However, Mr Erni, said: "They have gone ahead with

tors said that they had visited the village to discover that government officials were deliberately refusing the Bushmen water unless they signed an agreement to leave.

The government officials said that they would not repair a borehole until leaders of the community had signed.

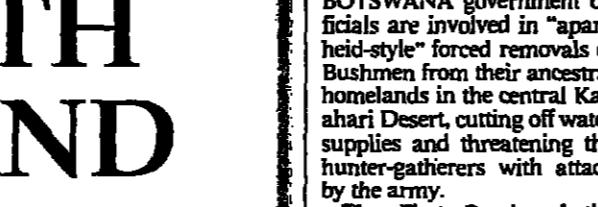
"People saw they just had no choice but to sign in order to save their animals and themselves from dying of thirst," one of the First People investigators said.

An official in the Botswana Government denied that Bushmen had been threatened and said that the relocation policy was "for their own good" and part of the Government's policy to develop tourism and conservation in the Kalahari.

However, safari companies and conservation groups have already joined in condemning the removal of the Bushmen whose expertise in the desert and vast knowledge of the flora and fauna of the region are seen as an asset to conservationists and travel operators.

'Apartheid' methods used in forced removal of Bushmen

Sami Kiley reports on the plight of an ancient people as the Government of Botswana seeks to uproot them



40,000 to go free in Russian amnesty

the plan just as they always hoped and largely in secret."

The mainly illiterate Bushmen were granted special rights to continue to live in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve under British rule in the 1950s. But in the past few years the Botswana Government has tried to end that privilege and has launched an initiative to "civilize" the nomadic Bushmen. Few now live the wandering life. But hundreds still depend on the veld for their food and as an essential part of their culture.

The Government said that the Bushmen would qualify for remote-area grants if they formed themselves into villages, outside the reserve. But they suspect that if they move they will be denied access to the veld, on which they depend, and that the reserve

will then be turned over to cattle ranchers, who form the most powerful political lobby in Botswana.

Several people who agreed to move told First People that they had done so after they were threatened with deployment of the Botswana Defence Force and had been told that soldiers would force them into lorries at gunpoint.

These allegations come after a human rights report earlier this year which detailed the torture of the Bushmen, who have no word for "murder" in their own languages.

Between 100 and 150 of them are still holding out against government pressure to leave Motjomelo, which is in the centre of the vast desert area, although most have agreed to move.

The First People investiga-

tor said that they had visited the village to discover that government officials were deliberately refusing the Bushmen water unless they signed an agreement to leave.

The government officials said that they would not repair a borehole until leaders of the community had signed.

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British troops rescue Karadzic men from siege

BRITISH troops helped to break a siege of Banja Luka's central Bosna Hotel yesterday, escorting politicians, bodyguards and police loyal to war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic to safety.

The rescue of the Bosnian Serb hardliners, stranded in the town controlled by their opponent, President Plavsic, ended 24 hours of humiliation for them. They had come to Banja Luka on Monday in the hope of upstaging Mrs Plavsic by holding an election rally, or even toppling her in a coup. But their busloads of paid supporters were never allowed near the town and they were trapped in the hotel for most of the time. They were finally submitted to the shame of being bundled to safety in Warrior armoured personnel carriers of the Nato "occupation force" that they spend so much time berating.

Jacques Klein, the burly American diplomat who negotiated their undignified exit, summed up the spectacle, undoubtedly the last attempt at rallying support for Dr Karadzic's policies in western Bosnia's Serb territory, by saying: "If these were coup plotters then they're a pretty sorry bunch."

Shortly afterwards a modest group of about 40 bodyguards, along with their political bosses from Dr Karadzic's eastern Bosnian stronghold of Pale, left the Bosna Hotel,



Serb hardliners who tried to upstage President Plavsic have fled in humiliation, reports Tom Walker in Banja Luka

their heads bowed as a crowd of several thousand screamed abuse at them.

This was very much Mrs Plavsic's day, and a filip for the Western powers which believe she is the only hope of keeping Republika Srpska in the Dayton peace process.

The trouble for the Pale hardliners began on Monday evening when it became apparent that few of their supporters had made the long trip through the Serb corridor linking the eastern and western Serb territories. British and American troops from Nato's Stabilisation Force (Sfor) mounted roadblocks to back up Mrs Plavsic's loyal police and turned back nearly 50 busloads of thugs. Mr Klein, the Office of the High Representative's administrator in the troubled town of Breko, which straddles the corridor, claimed most of them had been paid by Pale to board the buses.

The hardliners, led by Momiclo Krajišnik, Dr Karadzic's business partner and the Serb representative on Bosnia's state presidency, unsuccessfully attempted to press

ahead with a rally, which ended with hooligans loyal to Mrs Plavsic smashing their cars. "Go back to the woods," they cried, an expression the urban Serbs of Banja Luka use to taunt their country cousins from Pale. Mr Krajišnik and his entourage quickly took refuge in the Hotel Bosna.

Early yesterday Mr Klein and British Sfor troops offered to escort them to safety, but Mr Krajišnik refused. "It was a mistake on his part," Mr Klein said. "Time's running out for them."

Inside the Bosna, a surreal atmosphere prevailed: journalists and their translators mingled with crewcut thugs armed with pistols and machineguns. Food and drink ran out, and electricity was cut. Mrs Plavsic's supporters hurled eggs at the balcony. At around noon Sfor troops and the Office of the High Representative advised Dr Karadzic's men to leave.

Negotiations stalled over the surrendering of their weapons, but a blunt Mr Klein gave Mr Krajišnik's entourage 30 minutes to make up their minds, and sent for 11 British Warrior armoured carriers. "Let's hope that reason prevails," Mr Klein said.

At 2.30pm, the hardliners emerged after troops from The Royal Hussars and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers moved in to disarm them. Only a heavy police cordon prevented any lynchings as the Pale crowd ran the gauntlet of the Banja Luka mob.

Mr Krajišnik was among the last to leave, keeping the mob in suspense until evening fell. He departed with Dragan Kijac, the hated Interior Minister sacked by Mrs Plavsic.

When they emerged from the hotel with ten bodyguards, they were roundly booted and pelted with eggs and stones.

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE

The confrontation between Mrs Plavsic and Dr Karadzic as seen by the *Wiener Zeitung*

40,000 to go free in Russian amnesty

FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN prisons will release about 40,000 convicts in the next few weeks under an amnesty aimed at relieving overcrowding. Gennadi Seleznyov, Chairman of the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, announced yesterday.

Last week President Yeltsin called for an amnesty to deal with what he described as an "extremely tense situation" in some of the country's prisons. He said the amnesty could affect about 40,000 people in all, but most of these are understood to be on probation or parole.

Up to 40,000 inmates, including those with records for good behaviour, war veterans, the sick, and pregnant women, will be considered for immediate release. Another 60,000 are expected to have their sentences reduced. Murderers, rapists or racketeers are excluded.

The chief prosecutor's office gave a warning earlier this year of a social explosion unless something was done to alleviate prison overcrowding. Russia's prison population has swollen by about 50 per cent to nearly a million since the fall of communism, reflecting the sharp rise in crime across the country. Police point to the prison population as evidence of the success of their fight against crime, while critics maintain that only small fry are caught and that many of these would be better suited to non-custodial sentences.

Some of the worst conditions are in Moscow's remand prisons, where often between 70 and 80 inmates are crammed into cells designed for 30 and are forced to sleep in shifts. The prisons were built a century ago and cells are without plumbing or sanitation. Inmates go for days without washing or exercising and the spread of infectious diseases, including tuberculosis and cholera, is rife. Suicides are common, as are violence and sexual abuse.

Cook on crusade for 'People's Europe'

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HAMBURG

ROBIN COOK arrived in Hamburg yesterday to try to win support for a "People's Europe" just as Germany announced record postwar unemployment figures.

Making his second visit to Germany as Foreign Secretary, Mr Cook told Klaus Kinkel, his German counterpart, that Britain wanted to use its coming presidency of the European Union to launch a crusade against unemployment and to bring the union closer to the people.

In a speech at the city hall, he said European leaders needed to show voters that they shared the concerns of ordinary people. The whole thrust of our presidency will be to try to create a Europe for the people," he said.

In the first detailed outline of how Labour intends to use its six-months in the chair next year, Mr Cook said the EU must above all tackle the "jobs crisis". It must create more employment, relate economies and remove remaining obstacles to the single market. His words will be welcome in Germany, where jobs and

the single currency are at the heart of the September 21 state election in Hamburg.

The poll is widely perceived as a test of the beleaguered Kohl Government's popularity, and Herr Kinkel, a leading member of the Free Democratic Party, is fighting to win back seats in the state legislature for his endangered party.

In talks with Henning Voscherau, the ruling Social Democratic Mayor of Hamburg, whose party has ruled here since 1957, Mr Cook tried to lend some of Labour's new popularity abroad to the struggling German Social Democrats.

But he has dashed hopes that Britain would support a substantial cut in Germany's EU budget payments. He said at the weekend that Labour could not accept any contribution formula that would require Britain to pay more. He told *Welt am Sonntag* that Britain would not pick up the bill for Germany, but it would favour a sharp cut in agricultural payments to reduce the overall budget total.

Last night he again

emphasised the need for a huge cut in the common agricultural policy. Europe must put its money into those industries where people worked and not spend half its budget on agriculture, which employs only 4 per cent of people, he said.

Despite rumours that Bonn hopes Britain will help to find a formula to delay European Monetary Union, the Foreign Secretary has made clear that the Government will not take decisions for others, indicating that Germany must decide for itself whether it wants to go ahead with EMU.

Mr Cook's visit yesterday dwelt on Labour's new positive vision of Europe, emphasising benefits such as the Social Chapter, the common fight against drugs and the benefits that would make a difference to the ordinary citizen. He said Europe must escape jargon and its obsession with institutional detail. But he also emphasised a new closeness in Anglo-German relations coming after what he called the Conservatives' confrontational policies.

Public executions for Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

CHECHNYA'S newly installed Islamic courts will demonstrate that they are serious about imposing Sharia [Islamic law] over the breakaway nation when two more Chechen convicts are put to death in Grozny's main square today.

Despite an outcry in Russia about televised executions last week, the Chechen authorities intend to shoot two more alleged murderers as part of a campaign to stamp out persistent lawlessness.

Hundreds of spectators gathered a week ago in the city's Friendship Square to watch as a young man and his wife were handcuffed to posts and riddled with bullets by hooded gunmen firing Kalashnikovs. The two had been convicted by an Islamic court of murdering a man. A second woman's execution has been delayed because she is pregnant.

Although Islam stipulates that the dead should be buried as soon as possible, President Maskhadov has decreed that, as a deterrent, the bodies of those executed should be put on display with placards stating their crimes.

The Sharia courts, the first to be established anywhere in the former Soviet Union, had until this month confined themselves to public floggings for drinking alcohol. Now Chechnya seems determined to exercise the same strict Muslim code as that enforced in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Iran. More than 30 people, most charged over a recent spate of kidnappings, have been sentenced to death and are expected to be shot in the coming weeks.

Last week's executions provoked a strong reaction in Russia, but the two sides are clearly not going to allow their differences over human rights to derail a vital oil agreement which was concluded yesterday.

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Why we all long to be in the therapist's chair

Therapy has become a national obsession — part religion, part game show. Erica Wagner reports

Suddenly, it's good to talk. Hugh Laurie, stepping into Bob Hoskins's matey, slightly condescending shoes, now tells us so on behalf of British Telecom, and we believe him. But to a greater and greater extent, people are not picking up the phone to call their nearest and dearest and unburden their souls; they are finding themselves a giver of professional succour.

In 1987 there were 3,000 members of the British Association for Counselling; five years later the number had risen 11,000 and is now at 15,000. Sixty per cent of GP surgeries employ counsellors and two-thirds of their salaries are paid by the NHS. Where once those in distress turned to religion, now they turn to therapy: there are now as many as ten times the number training to be counsellors as there are training to be Church of England priests.

The media is suffused by differing manifestations of this desire for psychic healing: from the columns of agony aunts and uncles to the investigations of celebrity souls — both with the consent of the soul concerned, in programmes such as Professor Anthony Clare's *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*. Oliver James's *The Chair* — or, in the case of James, putting "Diana on the couch" on the very Sunday of her death, without.

Tomorrow, at Church House, Westminster, Professor Clare and Dr Raj Persaud, eminent professionals and interviewers both, will debate whether or not it is possible to stay sane in the Nineties. This is the new, public face of a profession previously defined by an unbreakable code of confidentiality. Mental health and happiness are no longer privileged.

Clare's radio programme *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*, one of the longest-running manifestations of the examination of the psyche in public,

is fascinating in the same way as biography: our appetite for details of people's lives seems insatiable. But its subjects are not long-buried princes or prime ministers. They live and breathe, and choose to air their dramas and dilemmas for our entertainment. Why?

Brian Masters was one of Clare's most recent guests: author of books on Dennis Nilsen and Rosemary West, among others, he is himself best known for examining the criminal mind. He admits that vanity had not a little to do with the decision to bare his soul.

It's very flattering to imagine that a bunch of strangers is going to find your life interesting. But does such a public airing do any good or serve any purpose? Masters admits that he was surprised to find himself saying to Clare something he had not realised about himself before. "I suppose I discovered that I am almost too self-sufficient; it's hard for me to do anything for me — something I hadn't really known, although I had thought about the feelings of other people, and my own, a great deal. It shows that it is possible to discover something unrealised at the hands of a skilled analyst."

But art, he contends, defines the limits of analysis. "If you want to learn about the human soul, all you have to do is read the great works. If you have read your Shakespeare and Dostoevsky, you might not have to go through all this..."

But analysing creations of fiction is very different from the modern attempt to analyse strangers who may seem — through their existence in the media — almost like characters from novels. For surely one of the most peculiar manifestations of the modern analytical obsession is the willingness to believe that it is possible to know a stranger — usually a celebrity's —

heart and mind. Psychologist James, whose book *Britain on the Couch* is published next week and who brought Peter Mandelson to tears on his programme *The Chair*, continued his speculations into royal minds in *The Sunday Times*, assessing the grief and prospects of Prince William and Prince Harry.

James is convinced that such discussion is possible, and worthwhile. "There is a disclaimer in the first paragraph of that piece on Prince William that says we don't know about his relationship with his parents and so can only work from the available facts. In cases like this it always depends how much information is in the public domain and how much of it is worth anything. You look at the facts, you look at possibilities and probabilities. Of course, there is a difference between talking to someone and not; and the further you stretch evidence, the less you are able to assert anything with confidence. And you must always remain aware that the person is a human being and try to make what you say as accurate as possible."

Professor Clare has little truck with such work. "The Royal College of Psychiatrists has guidelines that state clearly that such work is unacceptable professionally. You might comment — as I have done — on someone's behaviour, but you cannot explain it in terms of psychopathology.

"I think it's a regrettable activity if you don't know the person. Discussing what they have done publicly is one thing; but to look back at their childhood and do a speculative job is another, and I

would be very wary of that." But this, too, seems a part of the new, public face of therapy. And although Professor Clare, for one, denies that what he does on a programme such as *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* is analysis, both phenomena are manifestations of a need to know the feelings of others, to show our own to the world.

Is this a need that springs from misery? In *Britain on the Couch* James asks why, as a society, we seem to be unhappier now than we were only 40 years ago — despite being, for the most part, materially better-off. His contention, that the stresses of modern life actually alter our brain chemistry, might explain why more and more people are turning to counsellors to help them cope with their daily lives. But there is at least one media shrink who doubts this is entirely to the

good. Dr Persaud's impeccable credentials — one of the youngest doctors ever to be appointed consultant psychiatrist at both the Bethlem Royal Hospital and Maudsley Hospital in London, winner of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Research Prize and Medal in 1993 — support appearances in broadcast and print journalism (columns in *The Daily Mail* and *Cosopolitan*, resident psychiatrist on Granada TV's *This Morning*) that seem to make him ubiquitous.

He is now the author of *Staying Sane: How to Make Your Mind Work for You*, in which he maintains that mental fitness can be maintained in much the same way as physical fitness. Working on developing strong mental health, people can aspire to be independent of such figures.

Yet the booming counselling industry indicates that such independence may not be a desired end. Authority figures — be they spirits, gods, saviours or psychiatrists — have been looked to for guidance from time immemorial: it is a need unlikely to be abandoned even in

these secular days. People may no longer go to worship with as much regularity as once they did, but if a study conducted by the University of Leeds is to be believed, 55 per cent of people believe in second sight, 67 per cent believe there is some truth in astrology and 15 per cent that abduction by aliens is possible. Clearly the need to believe in something is still very strong.

Dr Anthony Storr, a psychiatrist and author who has turned his analytical gaze on men such as Churchill and Jesus (his most recent book, *Feet of Clay*, is a study of gurus), confesses that the confessional impulse leaves him puzzled. "Well, I'm secretive, really," he says. "I don't want to air my own problems, and I find the whole thing rather distasteful — just letting it all hang out. But one is used to maintaining confidence as a psychiatrist: that you query any public airing: it begins to look just like vulgar show."

But Clare reminds me that *In The Psychiatrist's Chair* was created following the comment of a patient of his — who has since committed suicide — that she believed all public figures had perfect lives. It seemed to him worthwhile to show that this was not the case; and so, perhaps, help people to acknowledge their own distress.

"It's not just entertainment: it is potentially enormously helpful. We may indeed have created a monster in the media — but now we have to use it."

Public show versus private emotion + Why death is so shocking to modern values + Superstition behind people's shrines + Shopping-list condolences

Cruelty of demanding that bereaved display their grief

WATCH OUT: the grief police are about. If you are not weeping, wailing and gnashing your teeth you've had it. You're a cold fish, an unfeeling monster, a non-person.

I wrote last week, tentatively, of the difficulty of extracting any real sense of what private reality was like from the projection of a public image. We presume there to be some connection between the two, but perhaps even so we mislabel the precise nature of that relationship. Regarding grief, it is particularly difficult.

But with grief, it seems, everyone is keenest to make the snappiest of snap judgments. It's not simply a case of "better out than in"; the modern consensus seems to be that if it isn't out then it can't be in.

It's hard to know quite how such an idea has taken hold. But the evidence that it has is extraordinary. I am a rather emotional person, but I would never, if I could help it, cry out loud in front of people. At my saddest, my feelings have been at their most buried, not their most volently expressed.

I make this admission not because I have fallen prey to the confessional impulse but because I take issue with the general tendency to depict self-control as a

particular failing of desiccated royals. It's not a question of stiff upper lip assumptions of superiority or alienation from how "real people" feel: it is about how one is.

Undeniably, the old way was not always right: it was cruel to make people swallow their deepest feelings if their deepest feelings cried out for utterance. But palpably, it is as ludicrous to insist we all squeeze our tears out for public edification.

I was shocked that — as it was decreed — "the ordinary people" demanded shows of grief from those poor bereaved boys in order, it was all but threatened, for them to continue bestowing the blessing of their sympathy on the Princes. (It might be more democratic to use us and our, but I can't bear to.) Are we so crude, have we such coarse sensibilities and such lack of

imagination that we need to see proof that a child suffers when its mother dies?

Perhaps it is true that the affect of the person who dies affects the way in which others mourn them. Diana, Princess of Wales, did appear to approve of showing her wounds in the mar-

ketplace. And yet, even so, greater claims are made for that than is perhaps correct.

There must still have been a difference between public and private: there has to be. But we presumed there wasn't as the idea flattered us: what we got was the real thing. For no reason that is rooted in our knowledge of our

grief expressed a million times over,

I realised how ludicrous it had got.

First we revile the idea of a distinction between private and public,

then we refuse to believe there can even be one; now we hold

that only the private is real, that anything public must be false.

It isn't a private grief — except

for friends or family — but to

describe those displays of mourning as a public grief doesn't indicate that none of it exists.

Declaring only one part of life to be real does more than unbalance us: it shows us to be unshinged.

It's not conclude, can't conclude, from any of that that the way forward is the way back. But I am afraid that it appears undeniable that, as history always seems to show us, people really do prefer the darkness to the light.

Let us end the taboo on death

been impossible for people to get to adulthood without encountering death, but this is commonplace now. Most of my friends have never seen a dead body; many

have never had anyone close to them die.

And if you haven't gone through any of this personally, you can't imagine what it feels like, how it could be. It is this fortunate lack of experience as much as unfortunate want of imagination that makes people so crassly uncomprehending of real feeling, real grief.

Back to the Dark Ages

FOR THE first part of last week I was deeply moved by the response of the public. By the end of it I was beginning to feel rather disturbed by it. There was something unsettling about seeing London turned into a medieval Catholic village. (And I don't use the term pointedly to denigrate Roman Catholics: I presume that they, you, are more upset than I am by the idolatry.)

Everywhere one looked there was a shrine set up. It was like being in one of those sparse hilltop communities in Italy (or, those better-travelled than I am tell me, South America) hung with amulets and strange religio-medical offerings.

Unbelievable as I am, I can't quite say it made me appreciate the uses and benefits of religion, but it did make me wonder how helpful the modern world has been in advancing civilisation.

We disparage hypocrisy and usher in emotional fundamentalism. We seek to sanitise life, to remove the stain of death and suffering, and then fragment when given proof that both still hold great sway. We banish religion and watch the proliferation of superstitious voodoo instead.

I don't conclude, can't conclude, from any of that that the way forward is the way back. But I am afraid that it appears undeniable that, as history always seems to show us, people really do prefer the darkness to the light.

Sympathetic shopping

ONE more and I'll get off the subject, I promise. On Saturday evening I went to Tesco to get some food for the weekend. Nestling beyond the tills was a table and the now normal shrine set up, with a book of condolence propped upon it. What I don't understand is this: if people are so moved that they feel they must write a message of condolence (which instinct I don't disparage), why would they not be sufficiently moved to make an effort to do so? It doesn't make sense to say "I am so upset I must inscribe my name in a book of condolence, but only if I can fit it in during the week's shop in Tesco." Further to this, a friend tells me that various people in her office were asking for extended lunch hours so that they could pay their respects at the various palaces. Funny how their sincere impulses didn't drive them to do it during their own time.



Nigella Lawson

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Strangers

In the second series Anne Sebba asks who served with her wife

Alan Coren

**■ Abandon all hope, ye who trample on my midlife crisis in cream**

As a leading medieval scholar, I had of course long been familiar with that plangent metaphor from Dante's best-known work, *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*: "In the middle of the road of our life, I came to myself within a dark wood, where the straight way was lost." I had not only long been familiar with it, I had as long trusted that it would be my crutch and succour when I myself struck the age at which much more than one's abdomen goes pear-shaped. I would, that is, feel far less solitary in my own midlife crisis with the knowledge that, seven centuries earlier, Dante had been there before me.

It has not worked. Though I have suddenly come to myself to find the straight way so lost that I no longer know how to eat, how to drink, how to walk, how to sleep, how to relate to my family, how to keep old friends or make new ones, or even what to do if a man comes to read the meter or an insect scuttles in behind him, it has not worked. It has not worked because, for all his genius, Dante didn't have the first idea about *Exminster*. Especially in cream.

A quarter of a century ago, when I was so far from the middle that I didn't even know there was a wood, we moved into this house. Its floors and staircases were clad throughout in dark-brown carpet, which suited us very well, since we had toddlers who spilled things, threw things, brought things up, and dragged in from street and garden things the dog had so far neglected to. They didn't drag in things the cat had neglected to, because the cat dragged in only things that ran about, briefly, until the cat was ready to put a stop to it. The toddlers didn't do this because they had things of their own which ran about, after their cages had been opened, and until the cat was ready to put a stop to that, too. But we never minded, because the brown carpet was a dab hand at unnoticeably soaking up red blood, vomit and the rest, with a bit of help from other dabbing hands, enabling us to present ourselves on being the sort of unfussy parents whose offspring would not one day end up supine on shrinks' couches, with their trembling legs straight up in the air so their shoes didn't touch the fabric.

We were also great hosts: guests could stomp in with muddy galoshes and dripping brollies and start drinking right away, so that there was bags of spilling time until they had to stagger to the table and begin knocking plates to a carpet canny enough to allow the soup to extinguish the cigarette butt, before imperceptibly absorbing it. It also took nosebleeds in its stride.

And then, last week, it went. Twenty-five years of domestic archaeology were lifted and envaried; and what was devoured was its cream replacement. For, having arrived at the middle, we decided to refurbish the wood, and we felt that cream would be just the ticket. It is. It is the ticket to the rest of the wood, where the straight way is lost. I have lived with it for a week, and I do not know where to turn.

I dare not smoke, except in the kitchen, and if the doorbell goes I have to stub out and tip toe sockily across the cream hall in case the kitchen floor has left a tomato pip on my shoe, and when I open the door, I dare not let anyone in who does not remove his shoes. Worse yet, since my children have keys and could walk in at any time, before I could stop them, I dare not go upstairs.

I used to eat upstairs, in my study, my bed, my bath, a pizza, a coca, a brandy, I dare not do that now, or carry our breakfast tray there, wobbling up cream stairs, across cream landings, into cream rooms. I dare not carry anything, since I dare not put it down, lest there be something transferable unclean on its underside. If it rains I dare not step out, not just because I dare not step in again, but because a burglar might break in before wiping his feet. Yesterday a spider got away with murder, or rather, without it.

My dreams of grandtoddlers have become nightmares. I can never have another pet, I have thrown my last party and eaten my last mango. I live in terror of everything, except dandruff; terror no one else can begin to imagine, for as even the uncarpeted Dante knew — "com'è duro lo scendere e' salir per l'altru scalo". How hard is the way up and down another man's stairs.

**Snakeoil, software and Gates**

Anatole Kaletsky
deconstructs the empire Bill built

Two weeks ago I devoted this column to a light-hearted diatribe against Bill Gates, the world's most successful salesman, and the mayhem caused by his flagship computer software, Windows 95. Although I knew from personal experience that many proficient computer users were as irritated as I was about the unreliability of Microsoft's products, I was surprised by my readers' response.

In my 21 years as a journalist, I had never written an article that generated more letters. And unlike the correspondence provoked by my past campaigns — for example, against Britain's membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism — the response was unanimous. Among the many letters, there was not one from a satisfied user of Windows or other Microsoft products. Of course, a deluge of letters is hardly a reliable gauge of public opinion, but the vehemence of this response suggests that this is an issue worth pursuing, if only because of the pivotal role of the computer industry in the global economic expansion and the bull market in shares around the world.

In the last article I considered the first question that strikes anyone who tries to use a Windows personal computer: why are computers so unreliable and difficult to use? The short answer seemed to be that the computer industry is dominated by two companies: Mr Gates's Microsoft and Intel, which manufactures the microprocessors at the heart of every PC. By constantly changing specifications and adding technical gimmicks which use up ever more of the PC's memory and processing power, these companies keep up the pressure on their customers to invest in new hardware and software. This constant "upgrading", in turn, makes existing systems appear obsolete. Anyone who has tried to get a spare part or hardware driver for a four-year-old computer will know what I mean. "We're running a business here, not a museum," is often the gist of the manufacturer's reply.

Amazingly, computer users meekly bow to this kind of insolence. Imagine how they would react if Ford or General Motors announced that spare parts would no longer be available for "obsolete" K-registration cars.

The iron law of fiscal control is that the closer a democratic entity is to an electorate, the more stingy it will be. The most spendthrift governments are supranational, the United Nations and the European Union. The most parsimonious are the most local. English parishes, like districts in Northern Ireland, are too terrified of their voters to spend their entitlement, even though they are now uncapped. The local levy always lags behind centrally determined taxes.

Scotland is tomorrow embarking on what the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, calls "an adventure". It is only an adventure to the isolated occupants of the British Isles. Constitutional (and fiscal) devolution is practised everywhere else in Europe. Britain's inability to devolve has been a blot on its political escutcheon from Braveheart and Glencoe to the American colonies and the troubles in Ireland. Devolution is the one ideology that London has never comprehended. Centralist arrogance is embedded in Britain's political elite.

Until this remarkable White Paper, Three pence here or there on income tax is not the issue. If the White Paper becomes law, Scottish people will have power to fix their own taxes on property, on public services, on businesses, even on income. Through this they could even achieve what the current debate ignores: the sensation of a cut in income tax north of the border. To do this the Edinburgh parliament need only devolve "tax-varying powers" to its subsidiary local councils. In other words, it must show the same obeisance to devolution as, of a sudden, has Westminster.

Tomorrow, if I were a Scot, I would treat question two as an insult and an irrelevance. I would spoil the ballot paper, except that the answer to question one heralds the most exciting innovation in British government this century.

The main reason, I think, is that most people who pay for computers — be they company directors, parents or head teachers — know nothing about information technology but think it is frighteningly important. They believe computers hold the key to their company's or their school's or their children's future. So nothing but the best will do. Parents who would not dream of buying their child a £500 bicycle when a second-hand bike will do, feel proud of spending £2,000 instead of £1,000 on the latest 200 MHz Pentium Plus with MMX technology. Heads who are sacking teachers, closing libraries and abandoning school plays for lack of funds, think nothing of spending thousands on multimedia Internet computers. Even finance directors, who boast of cutting wages, reducing pensions and abolishing company cars lie down like lambs when the IT department tells them that the company needs to be "future-proofed" by buying workstations that can download animations from Japan, play three-dimensional computer games and show five channels of video all at the same time.

How can this strange behaviour be explained? It seems apposite to draw another comparison with the American healthcare business before employers started taking serious steps to control their medical costs. The people who buy computers today are driven by the same combination of ignorance, embarrassment, hope and foreboding that turned many Americans into hypochondriacs.

Under these circumstances, market forces can fail to perform their normal function of bringing down prices and stabilising standards, as they failed in American healthcare for many years. When people are driven by irrational hopes and fears, they are natural suckers for panaceas. Bill Gates is the latest and most successful in the long history of American snakeoil salesmen.

Scotland's tax timebomb

Mr Blair is wrong: his White Paper will give Scots fiscal autonomy even with a Yes-No vote. They should use it to undercut England

Tony Blair has no vote in tomorrow's Scottish referendum. Yet he has already given his verdict on its "tax-varying" question two. He wants it null and void.

He wishes the Scots to vote yes to their parliament having the power to vary income tax. Yet he will not allow them to exercise that power. He wants Scotland to enjoy fiscal discretion but, having willed that end, cannot bring himself to will the means. He wants Scotland to have babies without having sex.

This is baffling. Mr Blair is ordering the mightiest political machine in the land, the London-led Labour Party, to deny Scotland precisely the autonomy he wants it to grasp. This is the more baffling because the radicalism of tomorrow's question one — setting up the parliament — makes question two irrelevant. Of course any self-respecting parliament should be allowed to vary taxes. But under question two, that power is merely to vary tax by no more than 3p in the pound, yielding (or denying) Scotland a maximum of £450 million. This sum is trivial. The Scottish parliament will be responsible for some £14 billion.

The hullabaloo over question two assumes that any government will raise any tax that comes to hand. This is not true of income tax. Governments the world over do nothing but cut it, throwing the burden on other taxes. British politicians throw it on to borrowing. The Scots may be capable of much lunacy, but I doubt they will let their new parliament do anything as stupid, indeed suicidal, as to put up income tax.

They do not need Mr Blair's centralist diktat. If I were a Scottish parliamentarian, I would move heaven and earth not just to hold Scottish taxes steady but to cut them below English ones, if only by 1p. The marketing boost for Scotland would be sensational. Noses would be thumbed at the Tories. Mr Blair and the whole of Britain — at a price of barely 1 per cent of the Scottish budget.

Nor need this mean any cut in services, at least if the White Paper can be taken at its word. This astonishing paper is not a constitutional soft-shoe shuffle.

It is the most liberal constitutional reform in Britain since Home Rule for Ireland, if not since 1688. Scotland is to have, not a talking-shop like Wales or the European Parliament, but full democratic autonomy over its internal affairs. A Scottish executive with its own "First Minister" will have

charge of transport, education, training, health, environment, the law, prisons, economic development. Where appropriate, a Scottish minister will sit alongside "British" ones at European meetings. Powers reserved to Westminster are limited to social security, VAT, the regulation of industry, and defence and foreign affairs.

The beef of the White Paper lies in its seventh chapter, on finance, and particularly in paragraphs 7.24 to 7.26. They are like a disclaimer clause in an insurance contract, a bomb fused but not timed. These permit the new parliament to decide "whether and how" to cap local council tax, and "the form of local taxation, both domestic and non-domestic, which local authorities will be permitted to levy". There is no limit on these powers, although London may cut the block grant to Scotland should it view the parliament as excessively extravagant.

This is radical devolution. Even if income tax is left from the reckoning, the parliament will have the power to vary all local taxes. It can abolish the council tax cap. It can vary or devolve to councils the uniform business rate. It can invent a whole new basis for local taxation, including business property tax incentives to win inward investment. Indeed I give local authorities the freedom to levy a local income tax, thus circumventing a "no" to question two. The Scottish parliament is free to play many variations on a fiscal theme — all of which offer it a chance to force up local taxes to reduce income tax.

For the past quarter century, British central government has been struggling to cut income tax. This hated tax is inescapable, personal and widely publicised. Voters identify it with the venality of government. British Cabinets have, since the mid-1970s, slowly shifted the tax burden on to VAT and local

property rates. In America, this shift was central to the Newt Gingrich "revolution". Local taxes have contributed a rising share of public revenue, even when local spending has not increased.

The only exception in Britain was during the advent and demise of Thatcher in 1989-93. This tax was so unpopular that the Tories capped and subsidised it to keep it down, losing billions in local revenue as a result. Property taxes in Britain fell by some 30 per cent in real terms in the first half of this decade. Other taxes had to rise, crippling the Tories with the charge of being a "high-tax" party. I estimate that, but for poll tax, the Tories could have gone into the last election with a basic rate of 20p.

Scottish local taxes have also plummeted. Bringing them back to their level before the poll tax fiasco would give the Scottish parliament all the leeway it needs, not just to hold income tax north of the border but to cut it. A 1p cut in income tax would cost just 3 per cent in the new parliament's revenue support grant to Scottish local councils. The £10 million would imply a rise in local domestic and business rates of 7.5 per cent. These taxpayers might howl, but let them. They are only returning to the status quo ante-Thatcher. Besides, their income tax will be lower.

More to the point, this shift need not be achieved by crudely adjusting the local grant figures. By uncapping local taxes, the parliament would empower local councils either to raise local taxes or cut services (or make them more efficient). This is precisely the choice that Westminster is now giving Edinburgh. What is sauce for one tier of subsidiarity is sauce for another.

The current debate on question two takes as its premise the claim that local government will always spend more if given half a chance. This is true of parliament all the legroom it needs, not just to hold income tax north of the border but to cut it. A 1p cut in income tax would cost just 3 per cent in the new parliament's revenue support grant to Scottish local councils. The £10 million would imply a rise in local domestic and business rates of 7.5 per cent. These taxpayers might howl, but let them. They are only returning to the status quo ante-Thatcher. Besides, their income tax will be lower.

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The current debate on question two takes as its premise the claim that local government will always spend more if given half a chance. This is true of

Simon Jenkins

very good voice but no longer, I am afraid. He is a bit, er, over the hill," the ambassador suggested over a glass of prosecco. "And he also has, how you say, little brain."

Readers of the Mirror may have noticed the smudgy photos of Diana's funeral. Snappers there, fearing they might be strung up by the crowd if they wielded paparazzi-style telephone lenses, were issued with small Canon Sureshot cameras and passed off as respectable tourists.

Hard times

THESE are testing days for writer Tessa Dahl, the daughter of Roald Dahl and mother of talented young model Sophie. After an eventful decade or two, skipping through a couple of marriages, an affair with Peter Sellers and a flirtation with Hollywood, she is on the verge of bankruptcy.

A notice posted yesterday by the Official Receiver announced that Tessa Donovan had petitioned for bankruptcy. The name dates from her second marriage to Patrick Donovan, an Australian banker. They divorced after 19 months.

Her woes continued this January when she flew to Australia with an Australian television presenter, Richard Zachariah, whom she had met over Christmas. She



Brassed off: Tessa Dahl

returned after a month, pleading that "Australia's an awful long way away".

Ms Dahl, 40, has struggled to make her literary mark although two of her books remain in print. One is called *Matilda and the Animals*, a tale about a young girl's fight to liberate zoo animals.

At her London home yesterday, a flustered Ms Dahl said she was in "too much of a rush" to comment until a High Court hearing next week. Her publishers, Puffin, are protective: "All we know is that she is not feeling very well."

P.H.S

Booted out

COULD this be the first time a pair of cowboy boots has caused a diplomatic incident? On his most recent visit to London, President Clinton presented Tony Blair with a fine example of Texan footwear.

So enamoured was the soberly dressed Blair of this gift that he has passed it on to Peter Mandelson. The mercurial Minister Without Portfolio has no such sartorial reservations and has padded about in the boots.

Indeed, for a man credited with putting Labour into suits, Mandelson now seems to be adopting a more casual image. He paid his respects outside Kensington Palace in a leather jacket, and can often be seen puffing around the streets near his large west London house in gym kit.

When John Major was given a racehorse called Makfat for his 50th birthday in 1993 by the President of Turkmenistan, he elected to leave it in Melton Mowbray (the stable is below par in Downing Street). The President, a Mr Saparmurat Niyazov, was hurt.

Clinton will be less judgmental with Blair. An Australian MP, a crocodile farmer from the Northern Territory, presented him with

a pair of crocodile boots on a presidential trip down under. With rare restraint, he has eschewed giving them a test drive, restricting himself to loafers.

Brock fast

BED and breakfast is rarely on offer at castles, even those owned by the most impoverished aristocrats. All this will change at Sudeley, the Gloucestershire pad of Henry Dent-Brockhurst.

The erstwhile playboy is to receive paying guests for "rejuvena-

Cowboy style: Clinton

tion weekends" at which jaded city exiles will be fed veggie and fruit juice. With the help of his fiancée, Lili Maltese, he plans to turn the castle into a health farm.

Yoga, which Brockhurst spent three years studying in Los Angeles, will loom large in visitors' weekends. "Having experimented in my youth looking for the ultimate high through drugs," he confides to *Harpers & Queen*, "I found it aged 28 when I started doing Ashtanga yoga." Hmmm.

• *Pity flows as fast as fiction from the heart of Martin Amis. "I feel this pity for non-novelists whenever I come across them," he tells Esquire magazine. "How are you going to live in a denuded world when you're just living in it, no longer giving it some shape? Deep energies and... corrosive emotions are involved in writing. But, it would seem, in reading Amis's excruciating musings.*

Square deal TWENTY years of hard campaigning and French opera fans were thrilled to hear that the Mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, was about to rename the Place de l'Alma after Maria Callas, the legendary soprano. A ceremony was planned to mark the twentieth anniversary of her death in 1977. But following

**DIARY**

the death of Diana, a movement is underfoot to rename the fashionable square Place Lady Diana. By the Seine, only 100 yards from the Pont Alma, the bridge over the fatal underpass, it has become a memorial to Diana and is filled with flowers.

• Not very new Labour. The launch party of Derek Draper's compelling study of Tony Blair's first 100 days will be held at the former Soho home of Karl Marx.

Deep pan

PICK on someone your own size. Your Excellency, Rome's man in London, Paolo Galli, has offered some sharp opinions on his country's bulkiest cultural export, Luciano Pavarotti.

Signor Galli bristled with patrician disdain: "He used to have a

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BRIGHTON ROCKED

Adapt or die, trade unionists are told

Time was, not so long ago, when Labour leaders went to the TUC congress to drive a bargain. From their side of the negotiating table, the politicians offered an end to Tory labour laws. From the other, they extracted secret pledges of support for tricky votes at their forthcoming party conference. Tony Blair's message yesterday was that times have changed.

There was no deal to be struck, no barter on offer. Mr Blair does need help to win his party reforms but he was not in mood to promise concessions to secure it. Indeed, he went out of his way to provoke the more old-fashioned unionists. "I look forward", he said, "to the day I come to the TUC and the phrase 'labour law' is not mentioned."

The message he brought was a simple one: trade unions had to modernise or die. The world of work has changed hugely in the past two decades; so have most British institutions and so has the Labour Party. Only the unions still seem stuck in a 1970s time warp — and not even a fashionable retro version at that. They are still in denial, trying to wish away an economy that is globalised, flexible and uncertain, that values services more than manufacturing, that creates jobs for women more than men. Today's is an economy, as Mr Blair pointed out, which employs more people in design than in the car industry, and sells more rock music abroad than steel.

The Prime Minister was listened to stonily, and applauded politely. To much of the audience, he was saying things that they did not want to hear. But he was right. These changes will not be reversed. Jobs for life will not return. Steel, mining and shipbuilding will never again be great British industries. But others will take their place. And the unions, if they do not transform themselves, will become like a rusted hulk on the Tyne.

BETTER IN THAN OUT

Ulster Unionists, not Sinn Fein, are the crucial players

The sight of the Sinn Fein leadership striding into Stormont Castle yesterday will have turned many stomachs. The speed with which Gerry Adams — his pockets freshly filled with American funds — has again moved from outright pariah to international peacemaker is unsettling, if not offensive. Many in Northern Ireland and elsewhere will sense that the IRA's violation of its initial ceasefire and its preceding quarter century of ceaseless carnage has been swept under the carpet. Once bitten does not seem to have made for twice shy.

Despite this, it is now a political fact that Sinn Fein will be present when the talks resume on Monday. It can also be assumed that the IRA will retain its influence, at least in the short term. John Hume will also be there after his wise decision to forsake a prospective campaign and probable victory in the contest for the Irish Presidency. He has put the peace process ahead of personal prestige. The SDLP will be much the stronger for his sacrifice. The forces of nationalism — constitutional and confrontational — will be represented by a formidable team.

Whether Unionists will be involved in any form remains an open question. For all Mr Adams' posturing it is also the crucial one. It would have been perfectly possible to proceed without Sinn Fein, although that option was often undermined by the actions of London and Dublin. A dialogue conducted without any figures from Ulster's majority community would be an empty exercise. The Democratic Unionists and Robert McCarthy's UK Unionists have already opted out. The decision that David Trimble and his Ulster Unionist colleagues will shortly announce is thus of the utmost importance.

A forceful case can be made for a boycott. The IRA's embrace of a second ceasefire is an act of calculation, not conversion. Had the election results in Britain or Ireland returned the incumbent administrations the

republicans might well have intensified the killing rather than abandoned it. The issue of weapons decommissioning may well be sidelined. Unionists could argue that both pure principle and practical politics demand that they unite against participation. All their energy could then be focused on ensuring that an eventual referendum on the charade at Stormont resulted in rejection.

Such sentiments should attract sympathy but they ultimately lack sophistication. The Unionists would exclude themselves entirely from the package of proposals that would be put before their people. It would be an enormous risk to place all their faith in the referendum. In such a poll the British and Irish Governments would be strident champions of an affirmation. International opinion and vast campaign contributions would doubtless be mobilised. Some 40 per cent of the Ulster electorate would be automatically attracted to a settlement. With the prospect of a return to bloodshed as an alternative, the republicans might succeed in blackmailing their way to a majority. Mr Trimble is surely too shrewd to allow the IRA such a free hand over Northern Ireland's future.

The Ulster Unionists should remain at the table but act with caution. Good taste as well as tact implies that they should at first avoid direct contact with Mr Adams. The proximity techniques devised during the Dayton deliberations on Bosnia should be deployed in Belfast. Substantial progress may still be made by these means and the sincerity of Sinn Fein can be tested. The decommissioning of terrorist weapons must remain the currency of that trust. As long as the principle of consent — that the final voice is solely that of a majority in the Province — remains cast-iron, then Mr Trimble is better off in than out. If that provision is diluted then he should head for the door. All those with any respect for British democracy and the rule of law should not be far behind him.

BOFFINS IN REVOLT

But all professions suffer from stereotypes

Scientists are steaming their spectacles over their image. At a British Association meeting in Leeds, Dr Helen Haste of Bath University spoke out against stock-in-trade stereotypes. They propagate damaging impressions of the discipline, she said. Mr Spock, the pointy-eared rationalist of the starship *Enterprise*, typocasts the scientist as a coldly calculating dilemma-cruncher, devoid of moral values.

The image of the scientist as a sinister figure, a mad meddler usurping divine powers, goes back as far as Dr Faust. It set the tone of Romantic thinking, of such characters as Mary Shelley's Dr Frankenstein. The theme of experimentation gone awry is carried through into such sinister modern figures as the wheelchair weirdo, Dr Strangelove. But since the dawn of modern science, the age of Bacon, Newton or Galileo, scientists have also been seen as the benefactors of mankind. Modern Merlin, they took over the role of the magician and the priest, predicting, inventing and transforming the world — working real-life miracles. With the birth of science fiction as a literary genre, scientists were often presented as daredevil adventurers, heroes who expanded horizons. But Dr Haste does not like these images either. The implication that science can offer a salvation to man, she says, raises false expectations.

Professions have always had their stereotypes: the ivory-towered poet, the suave-tongued diplomat, the grey-suited civil servant, or the baying hack. Certainly in the late 20th century these standardisations have often been coarsened and simplified into instantly recognisable types. Mass audiences have a brief attention span. But do scientists really suffer for this?

The laboratory, in reality, can be a muted climate. Experimentation often involves years of repetitive labour with little reward. Portrayal of scientists as latterday explorers, of their work as some wizard wheeze pushing back boundaries of knowledge, can serve as a gentle encouragement to those whose lives may sometimes seem thanklessly dedicated to minutiae which the uninitiated are unwilling or unable to understand. Surely characters such as that of the alluring egghead played by Jodie Foster in the recently released *Contact* or the bulbous-eyed biologist played by Jeff Goldblum in *The Lost World* bring excitement to science's sometimes dry domain.

Rather than deter young people from science, such stereotypes enthuse them. And anyway, are these images so unreal? History is littered with heroic scientists: Marie Curie, Louis Pasteur and James Lister, to name but a few. The boffins should come out of their laboratories and take a bow.

A new age?

From Mr Nigel Sarjudeen

Sir, Surely an encouraging sign for all those clamouring for the modernisation of the Establishment is the fact that the Prime Minister who read the lesson at Diana's funeral is younger than the pop star who sang.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SARJUDEEN,
134 Rowan Avenue,
Hove, East Sussex

September 8

Media response to funeral of Princess

From Mr Graham Shorter

Sir, Recent events have demonstrated a sense of solidarity, pride and loyalty. Those journalists who compiled the Channel 4 report concerning alleged disputes between the parties organising Saturday's funeral clearly have learnt nothing. The same may be said for those who have since further fuelled the perceived "scandal". What if there were some disagreement? Does it matter?

The sooner journalists cotton on to the distinction between what they think is of interest to the public and what is "in the public interest", the better.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM SHORTER,
26 The Hollows,
Long Eaton, Nottingham.
September 9

From Mr David Shepherd

Sir, If the offended parties are so anxious to escape the press, and I have every sympathy with them, then they shouldn't invite a photographer to view the burial island.

If they want us to respect their privacy then the least they can do is to respect ours. Quite frankly many of us simply don't want to know.

Yours,
DAVID SHEPHERD,
42 Westland Way,
Woodstock, Oxfordshire.
September 9

From Mr I. M. H. Kremer

Sir, Who has dictated that it is only the Royal Family who should be afforded protection from a grossly intrusive media?

Yours faithfully,
IVAN KREMER,
Rotherne, The Avenue,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.
September 9

From Mr Tadeusz Stone

Sir, As I understand it, the "media" includes both television and radio. One wouldn't think so from their "holier than thou" attitude to the press.

I would put programmes such as *GMTV*, *This Morning* (both ITV) and *The Magazine* (Radio 5) — with their phone-ins, telephone polls and poor-taste reporting on Princess Diana and the Royal Family — in the same category as the tabloids.

Yours faithfully,
TAD STONE,
Severnside House,
Furnace, Berkeley, Gloucestershire.
September 9

From Mr Timothy H. Jones

Sir, The Church of England, and in particular the staff of Westminster Abbey, should be thanked publicly and complimented for the wonderful funeral service held for Diana, Princess of Wales.

Those responsible for arranging the liturgy were able to blend the new with the old in an extraordinarily moving and beautiful way which compromised neither the Anglican Church's traditions nor its time-honoured beliefs.

It is a pity that the media, to some extent, hijacked the occasion in order to highlight the controversial remarks of Lord Spencer when the purpose of the service was an opportunity to heal wounds and point people to God.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY H. JONES,
25-3 Edina Place, Edinburgh 7.

From Mrs Diana Slorick

Sir, In this time of criticism of the press and media we should express our thanks to the BBC for its restraint and sensitivity over the television coverage of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

No prying lenses on the sad faces of the bereaved but dignified and controlled broadcasting, as befits a nation in mourning.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA SLORICK,
67 Royalty Lane,
New Longton, Preston, Lancashire.
September 8

Renaming airports

From Mrs Elizabeth Nicholson

Sir, If we were to honour all the members of our society who support charitable causes and strike many of the people who need them as being warm and likeable, but who never actually do anything of particular note, the country would be positively bristling with personalised airports.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH NICHOLSON,
109 Alwyn Park, SE21.
September 9

A new age?

From Mr Nigel Sarjudeen

Sir, Surely an encouraging sign for all those clamouring for the modernisation of the Establishment is the fact that the Prime Minister who read the lesson at Diana's funeral is younger than the pop star who sang.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL SARJUDEEN,
134 Rowan Avenue,
Hove, East Sussex

September 8

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Taxing questions within devolution

From Mr Hugh Craigie Halkett

Sir, I am very pleased to hear that Mr Blair has stated that the Scottish parliament will not use its tax-varying powers, but I am just as puzzled as Mr Nicholas Hinde (letter, September 9; see also letters, September 8) as to how he knows.

Based on Labour's vote at the last election, Labour would be three MSPs short of an overall majority in any new Scottish parliament. As such Labour will have to work with another party if it is to gain control. This party will probably be the Liberal Democrats. Now I know the Liberal Democrats are new Labour by another name, but I was unaware that Tony Blair was their elected leader to speak on their behalf.

What happens if the £14 billion allocated to Scotland is reduced over the next five years? Is Mr Blair trying to tell us that a Scottish parliament would not seek to make up such a shortfall, either by levying a "tartan tax" or by seeking to make companies uncompetitive through the raising of business rates? That hardly seems credible.

The truth of the matter is, as Tony Blair very well knows, *no one individual* can guarantee that every man, woman and child in Scotland will not be a defeat for the pro-devolutionists. They have been claiming, for years, that we Scots are massively in favour of it and that it is "the settled will of the Scottish people", yet now they are running scared because apathy may, after all, play a major part in proceedings (as some of us predicted).

The fact that taxpayers' money has had to be spent urging people to go and vote at all, coupled to the fact that the Labour Party is having to send its big guns north this week, speaks volumes.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. BALLANTINE,
47 The Quarryknowes,
Dean Road, Bonnyrigg, West Lothian.
September 8

From Dr Anthony Field

Sir, Before the Scottish and Welsh Nationalists vote in their referendums can I pray they will carefully assess what has been achieved by nationalism in this century and what has been destroyed — in Ireland and Spain, Israel and South Africa, Serbia and Croatia, Germany and Iran — the list is endless.

The problem is that the democratic choice of the people will in the future be heavily influenced by the inherent instability of a devolved parliament. The proposals are a recipe for conflict, recrimination and stalemate whenever the UK Government is of a different approach.

Yours truly,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower, Barbican, EC2.
September 9

Red tape still rules

From Mr Michael Lewis

Sir, I was recently invited to speak at a major Russian conference at Moscow State University and at the British Council in St Petersburg.

After endless earlier difficulties with the paperwork, I stood in the visa queue at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in London for three hours with a group of distinguished scientists, only to have the door slammed in my face with no explanation or apology. I cancelled my visit.

When I informed the conference organisers, they asked me to complain publicly with all the force at my command, as they are having increasing difficulty in getting speakers to visit, and always for the same reason — the bureaucracy, unhelpfulness and rudeness of the staff of the embassy.

Is it official Russian policy to discourage visits from those of us who would like to share our knowledge, experience and expertise without payment?

Yours sincerely,
M. A. LEWIS,
39 Coombe Lea,
Grand Avenue,
Hove, East Sussex.

September 8

Vultures' return

From Mr James Wilde

Sir, I read with interest your report (August 27) that the bearded vulture *Cypselurus barbatus* has bred successfully in the French Alps. This is exciting news and it is to be hoped the experiment continues to be successful.

This year during one week at the end of May my wife and I counted six of these birds, including three immatures, at various sites in the Spanish Pyrenees — a greater number than we have seen on all our previous trips to the region. That the bird is increasing its numbers in the Pyrenees is a triumph for the Spanish ornithological community, who keep an active watch on the welfare of the birds.

There are those who question the wisdom of trying to turn the clock back by reintroducing species to regions they once inhabited. But the fact that this majestic bird, often with a wingspan exceeding 9ft, is soaring once again over the high alps will lift the spirits of conservationists everywhere.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES WILDE,
29 Florida Fields,
Castle Cary, Somerset.
August 28

Pollution of the oceans

From Lord Melchett,

Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, Your editorial on the discharge of toxic waste into the seas around Britain ("Out of the Ocean", September 3; see also report, "Britain gives up right to dump nuclear waste at sea", same day) says that science on endocrine disrupters — chemicals mimicking the behaviour of human hormones — "remains as yet too sketchy".

All the North-East Atlantic countries, including the UK, are committed by Article 2 of the Oslo and Paris Convention to the "precautionary principle" under which action should be taken ... when there are reasonable grounds for concern [that chemicals] may bring about hazards to human health ... even when there is no conclusive evidence of a causal relationship between the inputs and the effects".

There are safe alternatives to most of the chemicals suspected or proven to be endocrine disrupters. These could be used at little or no extra cost. For example, there are alternatives to virtually every use of PVC — a plastic which releases endocrine-disrupting dioxins to the environment during production and incineration, and often contains other endocrine disrupters such as some of the phthalates (plastic softeners).

You say that "precipitate action here

[to reduce the amount of chemicals reaching the sea] could easily cost billions of pounds".

We know of no evidence to support this assertion. You highlight the cost of action, but fail to consider the cost of inaction.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Executive Director,
Greenpeace UK,
Canary Wharf, London E1.

September 2

From Ms Elizabeth Salter

Sir, You state that the science surrounding endocrine disrupters is still "too sketchy" to be sure any damage is being done.

OBITUARIES

GENERAL SIR JOHN HACKETT

General Sir John Hackett, GCB, CBE, DSO and Bar, MC, Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, 1966-68, and Principal of King's College, London, 1968-75, died yesterday aged 86.

He was born on November 5, 1910.

Generally — if sometimes grudgingly — acknowledged as the cleverest soldier of his generation, John Hackett combined intellectual attainments of a very high order with a fine record of leadership and gallantry in action stretching back to campaigns conducted before the Second World War. He had fought in Palestine, Syria, the Western Desert, Italy and the North-West Europe campaign, being wounded at Arnhem, where he was captured and then escaped.

In his postwar career he rose to become one of the most charismatic and respected senior Nato commanders, held in esteem by the top generals of the West German, French and American armies. Small in stature though he was, he towered over most of his contemporaries in terms of his grasp of contemporary geopolitics. A man of pronounced opinions, he was never afraid to air them. This did not recommend him to Whitehall and the top job in the Armed Forces was denied to him.

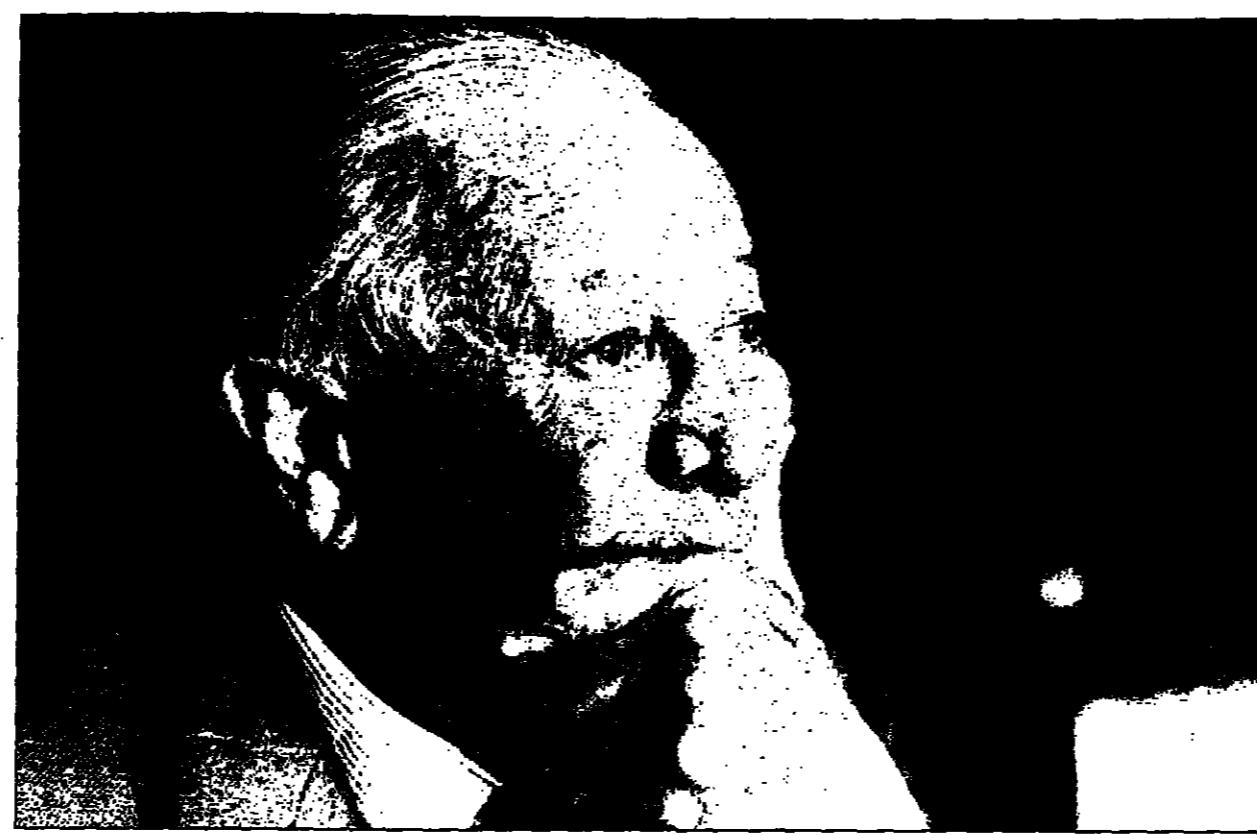
He retired from the Army into academic life, which he proceeded thoroughly to enjoy. In retirement for the second time, from the principality of King's College, London, he continued to be one of the most influential geopolitical thinkers in the Western world. His book *The Third World War* (1978), written in collaboration with others, was an astute — and hugely enjoyable — speculation on the probable causes and courses of a third 20th-

century global military cataclysm, and became a runaway best-seller. Hackett liked being a talking head on military matters and would explain his thinking to the public in publications ranging from the soberest of broadsheets to the most strident tabloids. During the Gulf crisis of 1990-91 he was, additionally, much in demand as a television analyst of military events.

Opinionated though Hackett was, in purely intellectual terms, he was nevertheless far from being intolerant in a blimpish sense, even to those whose standpoint he could not conceivably be asked to share. There was far too much of the scholar in him for that. He had a keen sense of history, and, at that, not merely the military history of the modern era. Thus, he could gently recommend to the leaders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament that they read Thucydides before jumping to simplistic conclusions about the avoidance of a state of war between nations in economic and political competition with each other — while at the same time acknowledging them as being civilised and well-meaning individuals.

John Winthrop Hackett was the son of Sir John Hackett, an eminent Australian judge. Educated at Geelong Grammar School and New College, Oxford, which was later to make him an honorary fellow, he joined the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars in 1931, his great-grandfather having served in the same regiment.

Very early in his career he displayed a formidable energy and versatility. Already an interpreter in French and German, he added Italian while serving on attachment with the Italian cavalry. After becoming seconded to the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force (TJFF) in 1937 he added Arabic. At the same time, while on active service at the height of the Arab rebellion there, he found time to write a thesis on the cam-



paigns of Saladin during the Third Crusade for his BLitt. The research and writing of this took him up and down the valley of the Orontes on a mule and he spent a good deal of time living among the Arabs of the region.

When the Second World War came, in 1941 he took part in the Syrian campaign with the TJFF, during which he was wounded and awarded the MC. It was while recovering from his wounds during this period that he met his Austrian wife, Margaret. She was classed as an enemy alien at the time, but he married her in St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

Rejoining his regiment in the Western Desert, he was again wounded and awarded the DSO. While recuperating in BAOR. He left Germany in 1958 to be Commandant of the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham.

Returning to Palestine in 1947 to command the Tiff, Hackett had the delicate task of disbanding the Force prior to the British withdrawal. This he accomplished with great skill and then spent his leave in Austria attending a semester in graduate medieval studies at Graz University.

But he was not a man to enjoy life behind a desk and he was selected at the age of only 33 to raise and command the 4th Parachute Brigade which he led in Italy and at Arnhem. He was seriously wounded at Arnhem and taken prisoner, but subsequently escaped. He was harboured for a while by a courageous Dutch family, to whom he was later to pay tribute in a moving account of his adventures, *I Was a Stranger* (1977), and helped to liberty via the Dutch Resis-

tance. He was awarded a Bar to his DSO for his services at Arnhem.

Hackett was promoted lieutenant-general in 1961 and appointed GOC-in-C in Northern Ireland. In that year he delivered the Lee Knowles lectures at Cambridge, justifiably acclaimed for their erudition, clarity and wit. They particularly impressed American military men who heard them and increased his reputation as a strategist.

In 1963 Hackett was moved to the Ministry of Defence as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, responsible for organisation and weapon development. A master of brief, he could be formidable in committee, sparing neither high nor low if he felt the occasion

warranted it. He suffered wide unpopularity as the leading figure in the reorganisation of the Territorial Army but he was undeterred by popular clamour if he considered his course to be right. Nevertheless, many who disagreed with him then, disagree with him still.

Hackett was, therefore, a highly controversial figure when he left Whitehall in 1966, on promotion to general, to command the Rhine Army. It can be said, however, that he was a very successful Commander-in-Chief, particularly in the parallel appointment of Commander Northern Army Group.

His ability to speak several languages, notably German, made him a truly international figure, as did his close friendship with such outstanding foreign soldiers as Graf Kleist von Kressenstein of the Bundeswehr. When, in 1968, Hackett wrote a highly controversial letter to *The Times*, critical of the British Government's apparent lack of concern over the strength of Nato forces in Europe, it was characteristic of him that he signed it wearing his Nato rather than his British hat; the furor it caused in Whitehall appealed to his puckish sense of humour.

By then, of course, he had realised the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff would be denied him. He was too clever for the politicians, and perhaps also for the Army, which was always wary of his brilliance. He could also be abrasive on occasions and was not well endowed with the diplomatic qualities of the average Whitehall warrior.

He retired from the Army in 1968 and became Principal of King's College, London. Hackett, who had described the profession of arms as "an essential social institution offering an orderly way of life, set a little apart, not without elegance", took instinctively to his puckish sense of humour.

After his retirement from King's College, Hackett devoted himself to writing and lecturing; he was also much in demand as an after-dinner speaker. In 1981 he followed *The Third World War* with *The Third World War: The Untold Story*, a reassessment of the global scenario of the first volume.

A brilliant conversationalist, although not invariably a good listener, he had an international circle of friends, and he became known to an even wider audience as a result of his regular appearances on television and radio. Probably no man did as much as he has done to dispel the widely-held British belief that most generals are fools, and ignorant fools at that.

Among his many honours, perhaps the ones that pleased him most were his presidency of the Classical Association in 1971 and his colonelcy of the Royal Irish Hussars 1969-75. The only daughter of his marriage predeceased him. He is survived by his wife Margaret, and by two adopted step-daughters.

JENNY JEGER

Jenny Jeger, political lobbyist, died from cancer on August 29 aged 45.

She was born on January 19, 1952.

JENNY JEGER helped to pioneer a new form of political lobbying as a founder of the lobbyists' firm GJW. A loyal Labour Party supporter all her life, she had been an aide to James Callaghan. GJW's other two founders were Wilf

headed by Frank Lowe and Sir Tim Bell in a multimillion-pound deal.

While other lobbyists were mostly outsiders trying to break in, the GJW partners were insiders whose value to those seeking parliamentary information was obvious. They were young, they were enthusiastic, and they were successful. Seven years after the organisation's formation they sold out to a company

headed by Frank Lowe and Sir Tim Bell in a multimillion-pound deal.

He had been Mayor of

Shoreditch and his wife had been an active Fabian. His brother, Dr John Jeger, was MP for Holborn and St Pancras South until he died in 1953, when his widow, Lena Jeger, won the subsequent by-election. Jenny Jeger's death means that Lady Jeger becomes the last of this famous Labour dynasty.

Jennifer Anne Jeger was educated at the Lyceum Francaise and Putney High School. Loyalty to her father's old constituency, she read politics at Hull. She was at home in the worlds of both politics and business. Her father, who left school at 12, became a rich man, and she inherited his business instincts. After working in No 10 during James Callaghan's three years there, she proselytised for Labour in the City. She was a founder member of the £1,000 Club, established to raise money for her party, and she helped to found its Industry Forum.

When John Smith was Shadow Chancellor, she worked prominently in his campaign to persuade financial leaders that a new Labour government would not be intrinsically hostile to business interests.

She led a very active social life. She loved opera, theatre and the cinema. Her friends were many — enough to justify hiring Brighton Pavilion for her 40th birthday party.

After she ceased to be an active member of GJW — she remained a consultant — she was a ceaseless campaigner for various charities, among them the Carers' National Association, the Alzheimer's Disease Society and the Contact Family Organisation.

She never married, but is survived by her partner for many years, David Parker.

This notice appeared in some editions on Saturday.

DEREK TAYLOR



Derek Taylor, the Beatles' publicist, died of cancer in Suffolk on September 7 aged 65. He was born in Liverpool on May 7, 1932.

DEREK TAYLOR was the man who publicised the Beatles, from their heyday right through to the recent Anthology trio of albums, which sold some 40 million copies, more than any other British record in the world last year. He was part of a small inner circle of aides who went back to the Beatles' early days and which also included the group's manager Brian Epstein, their roadie Mal Evans and the head of Apple, Neil Aspinall.

A journalist for 15 years, Taylor became the band's press officer after being sent to harass them by the news editor of *The Daily Express*, who felt that the group had betrayed its young audience by agreeing to perform at the 1963 Royal Variety Performance. Charmed by their charisma, he accepted Epstein's offer to help to publicise them on a freelance basis, ghosting a weekly column in *The Daily Express* for George Harrison. Epstein later asked Taylor to ghost-write his autobiography, *A Cellarful of Noise*.

During a four-day trip to Torquay together, Epstein asked him to join the Beatles full-time, which he did — first as Epstein's personal assistant and later as the band's press officer. The perils of looking after the Beatles during the chaos of Beatlemania were manifold. When the crowd rushed the stage during one live (but mimed) television broadcast in Holland in June 1964, Taylor and his colleagues had to jump on stage and order the band to run, leaving just three guitars

and pre-recorded music blaring out.

Later that year Taylor had to appeal via the public address system to another rowdy crowd in Cleveland, Ohio, when the band had to be hauled offstage for their own safety. Taylor was also immortalised in one of the Beatles' psychedelic tracks, *Blue Jay Way*, in which George Harrison recounts a night spent waiting in for Taylor, who was lost in a Los Angeles fog.

After the break-up of the Beatles in 1970, Taylor became director of special projects at WEA Records, then managing director and later vice-president of Warner Bros Records.

In 1978 he left Warner Bros to return to his first love, writing. He helped both George Harrison and Michelle Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas with their respective autobiographies, *I, Me, Mine* and *California Dreamin'*. He published three books of his own, *As Time Goes By, It Was Twenty Years Ago*, and *Fifty Years Adrift*, of which just a few hundred copies were printed because he thought no one would be interested in his life.

Derek Taylor is survived by his wife, Joan, and their three daughters and three sons.

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The press watchdog needs new rules of conduct The time has come to draw a line on privacy

Once, a long time ago, when David Mellor was a politician in power, he famously remarked that the press was "drinking at the Last Chance Saloon". Until now it has appeared that drinking time for the press was going to be extended indefinitely and that last orders had been called only for Mr Mellor.

It is no longer. Saturday's funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, could easily have been the natural, melancholy end of a week of national mourning with few lasting consequences for the press, so long as editors showed a degree of sensitivity during the next few months and left Prince William and Prince Harry alone.

Instead, the sheer emotional impact of the occasion and its transmission to more than half the country has clearly made it a defining moment for the future of the press. No matter that Earl Spencer's sharpest attacks were reserved for the monarchy and how it has behaved, the indictment of the press was just as keenly felt and virulently expressed.

The arguments of a week ago over what exact proportion of blame should be shared between paparazzi and a driver who drove too fast and may have drunk too much seem already historic, and it is of little importance whether Earl Spencer's comments were either balanced or wholly fair.

Events have dictated that action is now required. But what form should it take? The promises of individual editors that they will no longer print intrusive paparazzi pictures is a step in the right direction; but does not go far enough. Editors change, memories can fade and in an intensely competitive newspaper market there is always the temptation for one paper to break ranks for financial advantage. The same applies to proprietors, however well meaning or distinguished.

At the other extreme it would be equally unfortunate if the present public distaste for the activities of some newspapers should lead to the imposition of privacy legislation. Of course, such a thing would be possible, even though there is little evidence around the world of such laws being effective.

The Privacy Bill 1997, should anyone try to introduce one, would have to wrestle simultaneously with subjective definitions of what should be private and what should not, and what exceptions there should be in the public interest. Just try for a moment drawing up on the back of an envelope a watertight legal definition of what constitutes the public interest.

Perhaps the strongest argument against privacy legislation is a very practical one. Unless legal aid is available to launch such



RAYMOND SNODDY

lawsuits, and that seems very unlikely, then only the rich and famous will be able to protect their privacy. The danger would be that all the shortcomings of the English libel law would be created in another sphere, and judges, not all equally versed in concepts of freedom of information, would have even greater powers over what we can see and hear. One legal remedy that might be explored is using the existing laws of trespass and stalking against the more determined of the paparazzi.

It may seem, in current heightened emotional circumstances, a patently inadequate response, but the future really should continue to belong to Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, and the continuation of strengthened self-regulation. The PCC has worked. Complaints are quickly dealt with and the commission has been successful as an honest broker between newspapers and those who feel aggrieved, except perhaps on a few high-profile occasions.

As Lord Wakeham made clear yesterday, self-regulation has also worked in the past to protect the Prince from harassment. The newspaper industry agreed that, apart from occasional photocalls, photographers would not haunt their schooldays, and that has been respected.

The task now is to draw up new rules, for incorporation in the PCC code of practice, to limit intrusive photography for all of the media. It will not be easy. What after all constitutes a paparazzi photograph? To argue that no picture should ever be published without the consent of its subject, even if taken in a public place, would simply emasculate the media — television as well as newspapers and magazines.

Editors will in future have to take a view on how a picture was obtained, as well as simply judging its editorial merits. The greatest abuse is not usually a single picture but a pattern of relentless hounding of the sort complained of by Earl Spencer. Those who behave in such a way should be identified and their work rejected by the entire British newspaper industry.

The task now is to find new rules that the newspaper industry can collectively embrace to stamp out such manifest unfairness. Their readers, the British public, now expect no less. It is not only good morality, it is also good business, because it is unlikely that papers that ignore the spirit of the times will continue to flourish.

If action is not rapidly forthcoming, time really could be called in the Last Chance Saloon — and the press would thoroughly deserve it.

Tony Hall
believes the BBC must learn a lesson from last week — let the people speak

It began as the tragic death of a popular figure, with implications for the paparazzi, the media and perhaps the monarchy. Exactly the kind of story that requires the gathering of evidence and the views of experts. But a few hours into the day it was clear that the real story was outside the studio, on the streets, in the extraordinary response to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

And the difficulty, frankly, is that for the most part the media did not understand her significance to people. Why should we? Journalists like facts. Who, what, when and where; that's the mantra for every fresh-faced recruit to our profession. Our job is to gather those facts, form them into a coherent report and get them on air. Audiences are supposed to be listening to us, not the other way round.

The BBC is wedded to the notion of accurate reporting, making sense of a story through marshalling specialist knowledge; this is at the core. But last week we learnt a tough lesson. We learnt that emotion has its political dimension, that by giving voice on our airwaves to "ordinary" individuals' thoughts and feelings, we could get at some kind of truth, which would otherwise elude us, no matter how many facts we assembled.

When I received the first call at 1am on that Sunday, my first thoughts were about the sheer mechanics of going on air at the quietest time in the quietest month, with a story unfolding on foreign soil. And how to get it right for every BBC News outlet, including the World Service.

The experts, the commentators, the political leaders were being filmed for their responses, the vox populi were starting to make it on air.



A television journalist interviews a boy outside Kensington Palace before the funeral as crowds gather

Then I realised that something was going on: people were articulating something that was quite new.

We heard from all kinds of people, of all ages, ethnicities, sexual orientation and social background. And the way they expressed themselves was highly cogent. This was a lesson for me. We must make sure that this diversity of voice stays in our programming.

For some, it was tempting to dismiss the outpourings of emotion as hysteria, tempting, even, to cave into the accusation that we, along with the tabloid press, might even have been orchestrating it by clearing our schedules for continuous coverage.

There was, of course, a symbiotic relationship between us and the public: many would not have known that Kensington

Palace was Diana's principal residence but, seeing the crowds gathering there to lay flowers, more people were awash with what he dismissed as "little-people stories". What arrogance. The debate about the appropriate coverage of the Princess has had one welcome outcome. All of us in positions of editorial responsibility are now, as never before, held accountable by the public for our decisions. We should be glad of it. When people don't care, we're really in trouble.

There are lessons in all of this for politicians who seek to lead us, and journalists who seek to reflect and explain what's going on in the world. We have reason to envy her. It seems that Diana made a connection with people, that

very thing we use focus groups to help us to achieve. In a world of niche marketing and media fragmentation, it seems there is as much to join us as to divide us.

On Tuesday night, I went to Kensington Palace and read the cards on the floral tributes. I was moved and learnt something. It has not yet been decided what to do with the books of condolence that so many have signed. In a way they form a kind of mass observation record of a country suddenly trying to find an expression for its feelings.

As broadcasters, we should be reading them. They may help us to make sense of the matters that lie so far beyond the knowledge of commentators — what is important to people, what moves them, and what they value.

• The author is the Chief Executive of BBC News.

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Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson, left, pictured during an Adriatic holiday before his abdication; Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor were considered prime targets



Shots of Princess Margaret smoking were met with outrage

Dawn of the paparazzi

Even before Lord Wakeham, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said yesterday that Prince William and Harry must not be hounded by the media, newspapers had been falling over themselves to outlaw paparazzi.

In the wake of Earl Spencer's excoriating attack on the press Lord Rothermere announced that he had ordered his editors at the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *Evening Standard* not to use paparazzi pictures. *The Express* has said the same. *The Independent* said it might not even attend official Buckingham Palace photo-calls.

The pronouncements sound grand but in reality are simplistic. *The Mail* and *The Express* defined paparazzi as freelance photographers who specialise in snatching pictures of famous people. What has upset the public are intrusive pictures and the methods used to take them. Such pictures can just as easily be taken — and have been taken — by newspapers' own photographers.

Conversely, Richard Young, *The Express'* star celebrity photographer works on a freelance basis, is known as the "king of the paparazzi," brought out a book called *Paparazzo* and rides a motorbike. But I have seen him greeted as a friend by many famous people — and he is hardly likely to be barred by *The Express* for hounding them.

The relationship between celebrities and the camera has always been uneasy. Damian Whitworth reports

Not only is it difficult to pigeon-hole some photographers, but it is crucial to remember that what constitutes an intrusive picture cannot be set in stone. The short, but controversial, history of photographing famous people has shown that what was greeted with howls of outrage at one time now seems utterly tame. Unauthorised shots of royals are not new. In 1936 a picture of Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson on holiday in the Adriatic before the abdication caused a storm.

Sir Edward Pickering, the former editor of *The Daily Express* and now executive vice-chairman of Times Newspapers, recalls the public reaction when a picture of the Queen, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother and Queen Mary at the funeral of George VI was used on the front page of *The Express*. "I was managing editor at the time and there was outrage. I thought I was going to be thrown in jail. But that was a photograph of a public event in a public place."

When Reginald Davis, who was one of the original British royal photographers, started accompanying the family on trips abroad from the late Fifties he would be invited to take up a position at premieres or on the way in and out of events. He was

before the cameramen grew bolder, film stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and Brigitte Bardot were their prime victims. At

first the stars' publicists would set up photo-calls on a beach but then more and more photographers would attend.

As the quality of colour printing improved and the number of magazines multiplied, hordes turned up. Demand for pictures encouraged shots to be taken of celebrities caught unawares. Fellini coined the term "paparazzi" for those who specialised in such shots in *La Dolce Vita*.

Barry Swayze, who started taking pictures of royals and famous people 40 years ago, says that the rapidly improving technology of the Sixties considerably aided the growth of the paparazzi. "The cameras got so much smaller and the lens better. It became much easier."

Another deterrent was the summary justice meted out to photographers in the style of today's more pugnacious film stars. "I saw Princess Margaret's detective thump a French photographer on the jaw when he was trying to take a photograph. He just came up and walloped him," says O'Neil.

Before the cameramen grew bolder, film stars such as Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and Brigitte Bardot were their prime victims. At

Spencer announced their engagement. "That was the turning point. That was an event that didn't involve snatched pictures, but I gave up after that."

"I had never climbed a ladder to take a picture. Occasionally I would be passed a chair to get a shot of the Queen's carriage on the way to the opening of Parliament but nowadays the photographers are like window cleaners with automatic cameras. Anybody could be a photographer."

He believes that the shots that contributed more than any other to the present crisis were the infamous photographs of the Duchess of York having her toes sucked by her "financial adviser", John Bryan. They were taken by a paparazzo who crawled through undergrowth and endured a long stakeout. "That was a watershed. That was the start of it and then it progressed. It was open season after that."

The idea, however, that the more distant past was simply a more gentlemanly, respectful age is not altogether true. Reg Davis spent several hours one day in 1979 photographing Sophia Loren at Versailles. As they left in his car two other cars pulled out of the car park and pursued them at speed back to Paris. "They chased us through a long tunnel on the way back. The difference was they weren't on motorbikes. But that has given me some thoughts recently."

Does Diana rank as the story of the century?

When the biggest news stories break, journalists tend instinctively to react first as news editors and only seconds later as human beings. That may be unfair: perhaps unlike other people we do both simultaneously, reacting with shock and grief but also immediately planning what should go in the paper. That was certainly the experience of every journalist when the news broke in the early hours of August 31.

Since then, no story this century has commanded so much space in British newspapers or newspapers across the world. Out that count alone, beyond its emotional and tragic impact or its ability within Britain to rouse a nation against a monarchy seemingly out of step with its subjects, the death of Diana, Princess of Wales has undoubtedly been the biggest news story of the century.

But was it the most significant? Within newsrooms, it has sparked a debate about which news stories have had the same impact on editors and readers.

We all have our own candidates. Within my adult lifetime, the stories that stand out in the memory are the Queen's coronation in 1953, Suez in 1956 and (after I became a journalist) Churchill's funeral, the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, Watergate, the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, the fall of the Berlin wall and Nelson Mandela's release.

Those are stories with a global impact. Among the British candidates must be the Aberfan disaster, the Falklands and Gulf wars, Hungerford, Lockerbie, Dunblane and several IRA bombs.

That, however, ignores half the century. *The Times*, then a much smaller newspaper, devoted as big a proportion of its space to Queen Victoria's death in 1901 as it did last week to the death of Princess Diana — as did the *Daily Mail* to the flight across the Channel by Bleriot.

On a worldwide rating,



candidates for the some of the other greatest stories of the century have to include the sinkings of the *Titanic* and the *Lusitania*, the storming of the Winter Palace, the end of the First World War, the Reichstag fire in 1933, the

Second World War (the declaration, the greatest day of the Battle of Britain, Pearl Harbour, victory at Alamein, D-Day or VE Day are all candidates), the first atom bombing, at Hiroshima, the building of the Berlin wall.

Nikita Khrushchev's speech in 1956 denouncing Stalin and the first man on the moon.

That list omits the Wall Street crash, the election or death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Stalingrad, the creation of Israel, Senator McCarthy, the death of Stalin, Sputnik, the rise of Fidel Castro, the Sharpeville massacre, the assassination of Martin Luther King and the Vietnam war — and it is also highly Anglocentric.

Among the other British candidates are the relief of Mafeking, the Gallipoli fiasco, the suffragettes, the General Strike, the Abdication of Edward VIII, the election of the 1945 Labour government, independence for India, the conquest of Mount Everest, the Profumo affair, the winter of discontent, the downfall of Margaret Thatcher and the landslide victory of Tony Blair's New Labour Party.

Yet those were stories that could be measured in column inches on the day or by the week. There is also news that simply cannot be measured that way and which is of still profounder and evil significance, especially in its long-term impact on human lives — Stalin's Great Terror in the 1930s, Hitler's Holocaust, Verwoerd's apartheid, African famine, Pol Pot's Cambodia.

The main problem in selecting such journalistic lists is that most are stories of death, disaster and war and never about love and happiness. The "good news" stories — the discoveries of penicillin, the X-ray or DNA, the invention of radar, television or the jet aeroplane, test-tube babies, women's liberation, black fibration — cannot be measured by their impact on a single day's or week's news. Yet each has had a more momentous impact on human happiness than any of the other stories. That is the way newspapers work and is, in fact, what readers expect.

So what were the ten news greatest stories of the century? What follows is a personal stab at an answer — and the main news story of last week certainly is not one of them. Why not quarrel with it?



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1997

Financial regulation turmoil ahead of announcement of new 'super-SIB' team

Bowe resigns from PIA and spurns Newro

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

THE Government's plan to set up a single financial services regulator claimed its first senior victim yesterday as Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority, announced she would not be applying for any of the top jobs and would be leaving the PIA in the new year.

Her statement stunned the financial services industry, coming less than two months before Howard Davies, executive chairman of what has come to be known as Newro, is due to announce his management team.

Industry sources said Ms Bowe's departure increased the likelihood that the position of chief executive will now go to Andrew Winckler, who holds the post at the Securities and Investments Board, the body that oversees the three frontline regulators, including the PIA. Michael Foot, executive director of banking supervision at the Bank of England, is believed to be in line for head of supervision. An amiable career regulator, he survived the heavy criticism of the Bank's role in allowing Barings to collapse in 1994, in spite of being in charge of the regulation of the merchant bank.

Supervision and enforcement are considered to be the most important of the five divisions that will be created at Newro. The others are authorisation, consumer relations and policy.

A PIA spokesman said none

of the jobs on offer at Newro offered the challenge that Ms Bowe wanted. Ms Bowe, 50, who was SIB's director of investment management and public affairs for six years before taking the reins at the PIA in 1994, said she had greatly enjoyed the challenge of the PIA.

Ms Bowe earned £160,000 and a £20,000 bonus in the last financial year and is on a 12-month contract. In her three-year tenure she earned a reputation as being strong on policy but weak on operational management.

In March the House of Commons all-party Treasury committee criticised her for the PIA's slowness in resolving the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal which is believed to have affected up to 1.5 million people. In addition, the PIA's pension unit has been attacked for being slow in dealing with more than 40,000 mis-selling cases from defunct independent financial advisers. Since May Ms Bowe has come under strong pressure from Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary, to speed up the pensions review. Ms Liddell has regularly "named and shamed" pension companies regulated by the PIA for their lack of progress in compensating victims.

Bernard Jones, chairman of the IFA Association, said: "We're not that surprised. The Government was not happy with the state of regulation and I am not surprised that

they want different people to run it. From the moment of the creation of super-SIB, I thought her days were numbered."

However, a Treasury spokesman denied that the Government had intervened with Mr Davies.

Ms Bowe said: "A great deal remains to be done to conclude the pensions review and to take forward work we have started here at PIA on training and competence, disclosure and the Evolution project. I am very keen that we should maintain the momentum of our important work to protect investors, as PIA goes forward into Newro. I will be working closely with PIA and Newro colleagues in the coming months to ensure a smooth and swift transition to the new regime."

The news came as a considerable surprise to PIA senior managers who were informed of the news yesterday afternoon, after the PIA board meeting.

Last Friday Ms Bowe had

briefed them on the progress of the formation of Newro. During this discussion she described Mr Davies as a "good mate" and had commented that his culture seemed closer to that of the PIA than to the SIB.

Mr Davies said: "We are sorry Colette has decided not to apply for any of the senior management positions and wish her well in her future career."



Colette Bowe's statement has stunned the financial services industry



Gordon Brown runs a Treasury at odds with the Bank



George Osborne remains a target

Treasury plays down tension with Bank

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Treasury moved yesterday to counter growing disquiet that its relations with the Bank of England have sunk to an all-time low.

Whitehall sources this week accused Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, of being obstructive in the negotiations drafting the Bill giving the Bank operational independence over interest rates and handing over regulatory powers to the new securities and investments board.

But the Treasury yesterday denied suggestions of tensions, saying: "The Bank and the Treasury are working closely together on a highly complex piece of legislation and progress on this is good and to timetable."

Although officials from both sides appear to have come through a particularly sticky patch in these negotiations in the summer, there is still barely disguised and considerable ill-feeling between the institutions. The Governor remains a pointed target for detractors in Whitehall and Mr George's position apparently remains a live issue in some parts of the Treasury machine.

Severe strains broke into the public domain in May when Mr George refused to deny that he had considered resignation. The Governor was clearly chagrined that he had not been properly consulted by the Treasury about the timing of the announcement on the transfer of supervisory powers.

Officials close to the Chancellor are widely believed to have attempted to use Mr George's public displeasure to weaken his grip on the Governorship and make way for a candidate closer to new Labour tastes. The favoured candidate was rumoured to be Gavin Davies of Goldman Sachs, the investment bank.

However, suggestions that Mr George was under pressure played very badly in the City and even, it is believed, with top-rank Treasury civil servants. Any plans to replace the Governor appeared to have been dropped.

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Yield	2.24%	
FTSE All share	2233.11	(-13.01)
Nikkei	18695.97	(+62.11)
New York	7834.02	(-1.15)*
Dow Jones	531.78	(-1.52)*
S&P Composite	531.78	(-1.52)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.74%)
Long Bond	9.65%	(9.64%)
Yield	6.63%	(6.61%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7.75%	(7.75%)
Libor long gilt future (Dec)	114.15	(115.15)
2 index	108.4	(107.4)

STERLING

New York	1.5885*	(1.5810)
London	1.5905	(1.5827)
DM	2.8205	(2.8260)
FF	9.6932	(9.6358)
FR	2.3607	(2.3550)
Yen	189.37	(191.18)
2 index	108.4	(107.4)

YEN DOLLAR

London	1.8130*	(1.8095)
DM	0.0245*	(0.0210)
FF	1.4877*	(1.4856)
Yen	119.00*	(121.16)
\$ index	105.7	(106.3)

MIDDLE EAST OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.50	(\$18.50)
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GOLD

London close	\$321.65	(\$321.65)
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* denotes midday trading price

Church row

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, faced criticism over the Church's refusal to recognise a union representing 500 members of the clergy.

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Lonrho buys

Lonrho is paying £225 million for coalmining interests owned by JCI, the South African group with which it was in merger talks earlier this year.

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City unworried by inflation data

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HEADLINE inflation rose to a two-year high in August after steep rises in mortgage interest payments and the cost of summer holidays.

However, the Government's favoured measure of underlying inflation fell back, leaving the City convinced that the Bank of England will not raise interest rates after the monetary policy committee meeting which begins today.

Headline inflation rose by 0.6 per cent in August, taking the annual rate to 3.5 per cent from 3.3 per cent in July. The measure of underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, fell from 3 per cent to 2.8 per cent, although it remains above the target figure of 2.5 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics said the main cause of the rise was a further increase in mortgage rates as banks and building societies responded to July's quarter-point rise in base rates. Holiday prices rose by about 8 per

Healthcare firm's value falls £300m

MORE than £300 million was yesterday wiped off the value of Biocompatibles International, one of Britain's biggest healthcare companies, after its American collaborator refused to license its flagship product (Chris Ayres writes).

Shares in Biocompatibles plunged 415p to 732½ p, leaving the company valued at £534 million, a little over half its market value earlier this year. Five directors of the group saw their holding in it fall in value by £3.6 million.

Economists expect the gap between headline and underlying inflation to widen further next month. Another round of mortgage interest payment increases, after the August rate rise, will send the headline rate higher but underlying inflation is expected to move back towards the 2.5 per cent target.

Market report, page 28

RJB Mining in jobs warning

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

RJB MINING, which last month closed the huge Asfordby pit, gave yesterday that thousands more miners' jobs could go if the Government does not back a levy on electricity bills to support clean coal technology.

Gordon McPhie, the mining group's finance director, said: "To keep the pits open we need to sustain the current level of coal burning. Without the clean technology, coal-fired stations will not be able to meet the Government's carbon dioxide emission targets." He said that if a 1 per cent levy on household electricity bills to support clean coal was not introduced the company would have to scrap all its UK projects, including the opening of a new "superpit" at Witham in Nottinghamshire.

A clean coal station is being developed by RJB with National Power and Texaco, but the companies say they need public funding. The technology is seen by RJB, which

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employs 7,500 miners, as the only way to compete with cleaner gas-fired plants.

Richard Budge, chief executive, said he expects a decision on the levy this year. He added that the company's controversial decision to close the Asfordby pit in Leicestershire was irreversible. Of the 490 workers at the pit, 180 have accepted jobs at other sites while about 80 have taken voluntary redundancy.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, yesterday offered miners' union leaders no hope of a Government-backed reprieve.

"It is difficult for the Government to influence investment decisions of private companies without prejudice to other companies," he said.

RJB lifted its interim dividend 25 per cent to 10p a share from earnings up 17 per cent to 39p. Pre-tax profit in the six months to June 30 rose to £57.2 million (£36 million).

The human face of capitalism.

Good investment managers are measured by their performance.

So, our investment strategy is formulated at the highest level, but individual flair is encouraged to deal with your unique requirements.

As well as professionalism we offer something more. The human face of your own portfolio manager with whom you can meet or talk any time of day. Your portfolio is personalised to your own strategy, not pooled with thousands of others.

The Private Client Specialist.

Brothers berate Carey over brethren

CHURCH ROLE IN FOCUS

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, faced criticism over the Church's refusal to recognise a union representing 500 members of the clergy (James Landale writes).

As Dr Carey gave his backing to the legal right for union representation in a speech to congress here, Roger Lyons, General Secretary of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, accused the Church of hypocrisy.

He claimed the Church was behaving like a "19th century mill owner" over its refusal to recognise MSF's clergy section, set up three years ago. Although priests can join the union, they cannot use it to negotiate with the Church over pay or conditions.

"They believe they can hire and fire at will," Mr Lyons said. "Many clergy are in tied cottages and if they are sacked they lose their home as well."

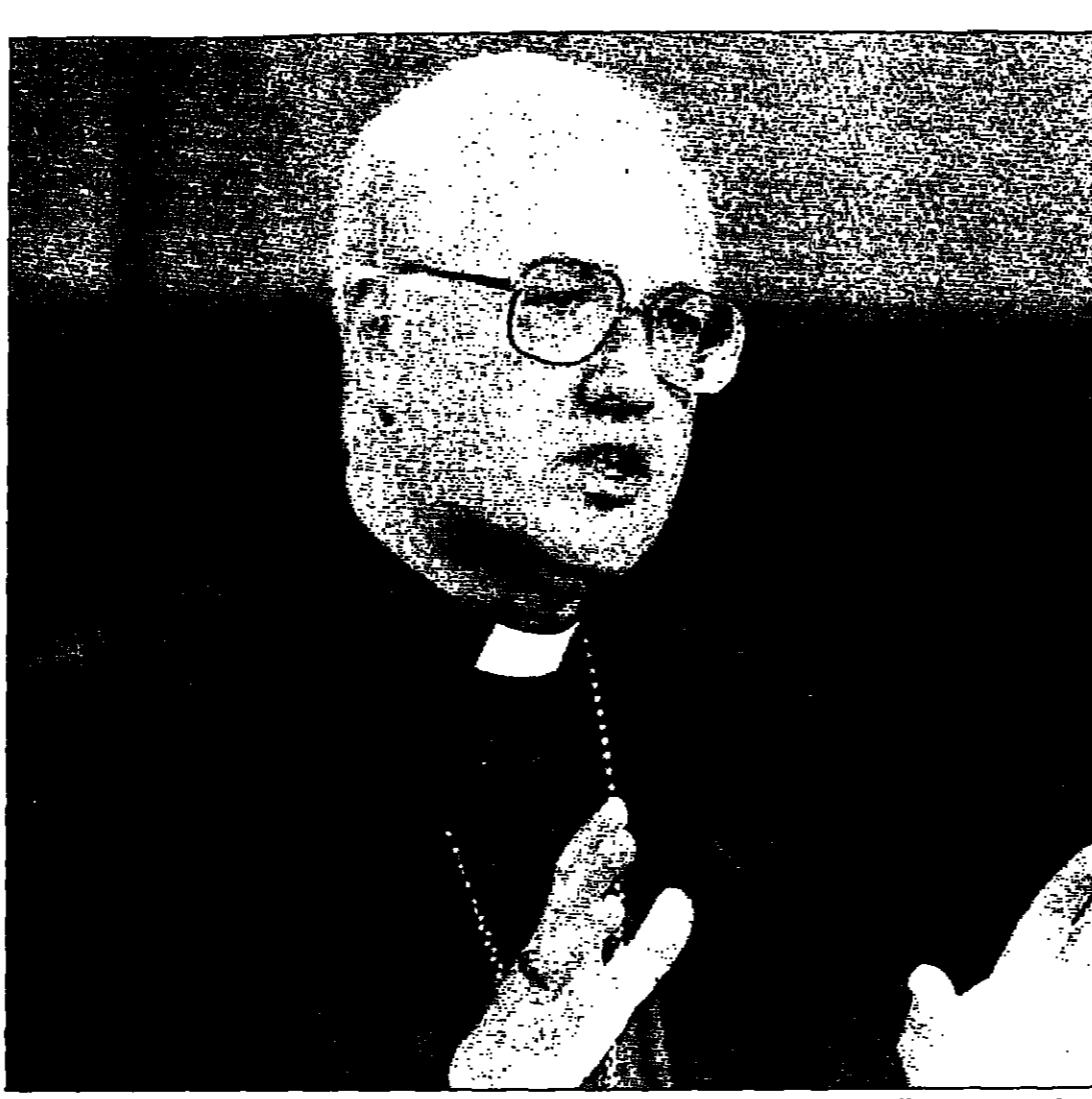
He added: "The Church is being hypocritical because it is hypocritical to want rights for others but not for your own employees."

While admitting that Dr Carey, a former member of two unions, was not hostile to unions, Mr Lyons said other bishops did not want to lose their middle-management role within the Church. He said he would be writing to Dr Carey to urge the Church to recognise MSF.

A Lambeth Palace spokesman said Mr Lyons' remarks were "an unwelcome distraction" to the speech made by Dr Carey yesterday. He said the Church recognised the unions of its own lay workers but insisted that the clergy were technically self-employed. He added that MSF had managed to attract only 500 out of some 10,000 clergy, which did not justify formal recognition of the union.

Last night, the MSF clergy section called for urgent action to correct an "extraordinary anomaly" where Church of England clergy are not seen as employees of the church but of God.

The clergy section, founded three years ago, has 400 members out of about 10,000 Anglican clergy.



Dr Carey embraced the unions yesterday but was accused of behaving like a mill owner over the rights of priests

CBI warns of potential for recognition conflict

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday warned the Trades Union Congress that union recognition in the workplace could be the biggest cause of disagreement between employers and unions.

The comments, by John Cridland, human resources director of the CBI, came after Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, delivered an impassioned call for full union rights. Dr Carey told the Congress: "I believe that in broad terms, employers have a moral responsibility to recognise the chosen representatives of their employees; and that it is unjust when people suffer victimisation on grounds of their membership of an independent union or participation in its legitimate activities."

Mr Cridland said the statutory right to recognition would

UNIONS IN THE WORKPLACE

be the main problem that had to be tackled by businesses and employees in establishing partnerships. He told a fringe meeting at the TUC: "This issue more than the minimum wage, more than the social chapter may lead to conflict rather than partnership."

Mr Cridland's warning – given on the day before Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, arrives at the TUC – touches on the gap between the two sides which could derail the atmosphere of co-operation that has existed in the run-up to the Government's White Paper on fairness at work.

The CBI's concerns over recognition centre around the definition of what is a workplace bargaining centre, the threshold of support for union representation and collective bargaining. Mr Cridland's

comments are critical as he is in charge of negotiations with the TUC over employment rights and is a member of the low pay commission.

The warning from the employers' organisation will be seen as clear evidence that the idea of partnership between business and employees which the Government has

marketplace should not be allowed to reign supreme. In a speech that received a warmer reception from delegates than that of Tony Blair, he said:

"Markets must be bent to serve moral and human ends; they are not sufficient ends in themselves. Humane working conditions, social justice, an inclusive and cohesive society, responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources: these cannot be regarded as second-order concerns, contingent on the iron laws of economics which are seen as primary."

Quoting the Catholic bishops' conference book Dr Creditor said: "Workers have rights which ... include the right to decent work, to just wages, to security of employment, to adequate rest and holidays, to limitation of hours of work, to health and safety protection, to non-discrimination, to form and join trade unions, and, as a last resort, to go on strike."

He said: "The strong pound is still putting our exporters under more and more pressure. Far from the Bank being too soft on interest rates, our worry is that the strong pound and higher interest rates will produce a faster slowdown next year than either the Bank or the Treasury expects."

He also gave warning of sterling's impact on jobs and said that the Bank of England is in danger of "policy overkill" with its actions on interest rates.

He said: "The strong pound is still putting our exporters under more and more pressure. Far from the Bank being too soft on interest rates, our worry is that the strong pound and higher interest rates will produce a faster slowdown next year than either the Bank or the Treasury expects."

Among the demands put to the Government by the TUC are:

□ Positive government intervention in matters such as fiscal policy, public spending and demand management, with the objective of full employment.

□ Investment in manufacturing to make it capable of delivering sustained growth.

□ Effective regulation to ensure companies covered by the windfall tax do not try to offset it by reducing employment levels still further.

Government to look at options

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to examine ways of reducing the number of people who do not join occupational pension schemes. But ministers publicly rejected calls to restore the right of employers to make membership of occupational schemes compulsory.

John Denham, Social Security Under Secretary of State, told delegates that the Government would consider a range of options aimed at ensuring the fullest possible take-up of occupational pensions. Options to consider include:

- Setting out clearer requirements on declarations individual employees must make before they opt out of occupational schemes to ensure that those doing so are fully aware of what they are giving up.
- A default clause that would automatically make employees members of occupational schemes when they became eligible to join, although they would still be able to opt out.

Mr Denham said the Government wanted to lay the foundations of a workable system that would endure well into the millennium.

"Generally an occupational pension scheme should, in the long term, provide a better value pension than if an

Tobacco fears to be aired

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

individual opted for a personal pension, or remained in Seps."

Mr Denham said he hoped the review would help to encourage ways of ensuring that people did not miss out on the benefits of occupational pensions. Options to consider include:

- Setting out clearer requirements on declarations individual employees must make before they opt out of occupational schemes to ensure that those doing so are fully aware of what they are giving up.
- A default clause that would automatically make employees members of occupational schemes when they became eligible to join, although they would still be able to opt out.

The alliance believes that "policies of high taxation are simply fuelling a boom in smuggled tobacco, transferring manufacturing jobs from the UK to Europe and threatening the livelihood of the local newsagent."

TUC finds favour across the board as mood alters

BY JAMES LANDALE

AFTER 18 years in the wilderness, the TUC has finally come in from the cold.

Politicians, business leaders and even the Archbishop of Canterbury have this week headed for Brighton to a Congress that for much of the last decade has been nothing more than a sideshow before the main party conferences.

But in the wake of Labour's victory, trade union leaders have seen a new-found interest in their activities from across the political spectrum. After keeping their distance from the TUC for several years, Government ministers have flocked down to the coast.

With the Prime Minister yesterday – the first to address the TUC since James (now Lord) Callaghan in 1978 – were five Cabinet ministers: Margaret Beckett, David Blunkett, Gavin Strang, Harriet Harman and Clare Short. Today Robin Cook, the Foreign

Secretary, flies in from Hamburg to give the fraternal address. Yesterday George Carey became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to speak at the TUC. Also visiting today is Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, who will

join John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, and Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, on an unprecedented joint visit to a factory.

Five years ago such an event would not have occurred.

Over the past two weeks, even William Hague, the Tory leader, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, have felt the need to meet John Monks. At the Congress itself, the normally modest collection of exhibitors has burgeoned into a larger gathering. The Liberal Democrats are there for the first time as are several banks and businesses.

Tony Duggins, the outgoing president of the TUC, said: "The debates are not so arcane as they used to be."

Tony Blair yesterday even felt able to joke about the change. "Not only did Arthur Scargill forget to move his amendment but the most radical speech of the week was from the Archbishop of Canterbury."

In accordance with the standard conditions relating to the payment of the dividends declared on 14 August 1997, payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R2.4280 South African currency to 1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittance between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 8 September 1997, as advised by the company's South African bankers.

The United Kingdom currency equivalents of the dividends are therefore as follows:

Name of Company	Dividend Nrs	Amount per share (pence)
All companies are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)		0.00
Gold Fields Property Company Limited	149	5.38503p
New Wts Limited	95	4.71190p
Vegetable Sulphur Metal Holdings Limited	101	6.05616p
London Office and Office of United Kingdom Registrar: Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited Greenwich House Francis Street London SW1P 1DH		
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED London Secretary S.J. Dunning, Secretary		

Equity members cast as speech coaches

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

At the TUC, she approached John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, and secured his agreement for Equity members to pass on some of their skills to other delegates.

Kate Williams, who appeared in the television sitcom *May to December*, yesterday took her first workshop, "Lots

of public speaking on the picket line, many delegates bellow into the microphone. Others, less used to delivering speeches, rush through prepared texts, hardly daring to raise their eyes above the podium.

The speech lessons are the idea of Miriam Karlin, a member of Equity's executive and best known for her role as the militant shop steward "Paddy" in the 1960s television comedy *The Rag Trade*. Frustrated by poor public speaking

speak clearly. They are also being taught how best to use their body language, keeping their heads up and making eye contact with their audience. Under TUC rules, delegates have only three minutes to make their point and they often try to say too much too quickly.

After a slow start, business swiftly picked up yesterday and many delegates came to get some advice. Denise Hardy, president of the Society of Radiographers, who is due to speak today, said: "I have learnt a huge amount about body language and what that says to an audience, things that I was never really aware of before. I am sure that will make me more confident when I get up and deliver my speech."

GILL ALLEN

Kate Williams, left, of Equity, the actors' union, coaching Denise Hardy in preparation for her speech to the TUC

ACTING CLASSES

of the speakers are very good, they know what they want to say and they are quite passionate, but what they are not so good at is communicating their passion," she said. "Often they speak too quickly or keep their heads down."

Union delegates are encouraged to cut the jargon and

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Spring Ram runs at a profit again

SPRING RAM, the troubled kitchens and bathrooms company, has recorded an operating profit for the first time in two and a half years. It made £100,000 in the six months to 28 June, against a loss of £7.1 million in the corresponding period last year. After interest charges, there was a pre-tax loss of £1.4 million, against a loss of £17.8 million. The loss per share was 0.3p, down from 4.5p. There is no dividend.

The bathrooms side saw its profits rise and there was a reduced loss from the kitchens operation and on the furniture side, which Spring Ram has been trying to sell. Roger Regan, chairman, said that no acceptable offers had been made for the furniture business, so it was likely that the company would retain it in the medium term. He hoped that the kitchens side would break into profit in the second of the year, and "if not then, next year". The shares stayed at 10.2p.

Croda suffers £11m dent

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals group, said the pound's continued strength now looks likely to dent full-year profits by £11 million, up from the previous estimate of £7 million. The company was reporting first-half profits little changed at £22.6 million (£22.5 million). Keith Hopkins, chief executive, said lower raw material prices, were not significant enough to counter the adverse currency effects. Earnings were unchanged at 11.5p and the interim dividend rises to 3.55p a share from 3.45p.

Acquisitions help Aegis

AEGIS, the media buying and planning group, lifted first-half pre-tax profits 12 per cent to £21 million, with contributions from acquisitions helping to offset adverse currency effects. On a like-for-like basis, profits were up 19 per cent. Earnings rose 14 per cent to 1.6p a share and the interim dividend is up 20 per cent to 0.3p (0.25p). The company said its aim was further development in America, followed by Asia. Aegis is close to concluding a small acquisition in Malaysia.

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Laura Ashley factory sold

Laura Ashley, the troubled fashion retailer, has sold one of the Welsh factories that was threatened with closure, averting the loss of 60 jobs. The buyer of the factory at Machynlleth in Dyfed is Merchants Design and Manufacturing, based at Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. Its clients include Harrods, House of Fraser and Austin Reed. Laura Ashley's garment-making factories at Machynlleth and at Caernarfon in Gwynedd were put up for sale or closure last month in a bid to revive the company's ailing fortunes.

Warning hits La Senza

SHARES in La Senza plunged 40 per cent yesterday after the AIM-listed lingerie retailer issued a profit warning and said that it is suspending its store opening programme. The shares, which came to the market last year at 150p, fell 26.2p to 38.2p. Half-year losses have grown to £2.9 million, from £1.6 million, even though like-for-like sales rose 3 per cent and turnover grew 68 per cent to £10.3 million. The deeper loss was blamed on planning and buying difficulties that led to heavy discounting. There is again no interim dividend.

Harrison's sharply down

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD, the animal feed to builder's merchant group, will next month announce the result of its strategic review, launched in March. The company, under its newly appointed chairman, Jonathan Fry, is thought to be considering a three-way break-up to reverse its declining share price. Yesterday it reported sharply lower pre-tax profits of £38.6 million (£64 million) in the six months to June 30. Earnings per share were 3.9p (5.5p). The interim dividend stays at 3.6p.

London lifts Royalblue

ROYALBLUE, the supplier of electronic dealing systems and software for customer help-desks, announced profits of £1.21 million for the first half of 1997, up 20 per cent on the same period in 1996, before exceptional flotation costs of £1 million. Turnover rose 65 per cent to £8.9 million, mainly from the UK, where demand for dealing systems has boomed because of the move to order-driven trading in London. An interim dividend of 0.75p will be paid on October 20.

Care First's tough time

CARE FIRST, the nursing home group formed by a merger of the Takara and Cavendish healthcare groups, said yesterday that market conditions "remain tough" and that some of its homes still have fairly high vacancy rates. They should reach full occupancy by the end of next year. Pre-tax profits in the half year to June 30 were £7.97 million, down from £8.66 million, on turnover up by 47 per cent to £87.9 million. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.55p. The shares fell 3p to 10p.

Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$ 2.28	2.11	2.06
Austria Sch 21.25		

MEMBER
ROUNDUP
m runs
again

Just four months ago the Governor of the Bank of England admitted that the behaviour of the new Government had prompted him to contemplate resignation. Reports on the state of relations between the Bank and the Treasury indicate that the thought may have crossed his mind more than once since then.

The gulf between Eddie George and Chancellor Gordon Brown and his team is now so wide that it would have even the worthy counsellors from Relate wondering whether there was any chance of salvaging the relationship. Yesterday's assurances from both sides that there is no rift were as convincing as the public professions of undying commitment to a relationship that traditionally precedes politicians' divorce proceedings.

Like so many partnerships, this one suffers from both sides wanting to do things their own way. Gordon Brown clearly has the advantage here, as he demonstrated within days of taking office, forcing a battery of drastic changes upon the Bank. Mr George has indicated that his blueprint for the ideal Bank of England would not be one stripped of quite so much of its powers, although there is some compensation in having gained control of interest rates, after years of having his advice on the subject scathingly ignored by

Kenneth Clarke. But the differences between the two are not just on policy, but on style. Mr Brown has implemented a new regime at the Treasury that is very different from the one that went before. The changes have, inevitably, upset some old hands there as much as they have upset the established team at the Bank.

Yesterday, from his Brighton pulpit, Mr Brown's boss, Tony Blair, made much of the need for modernising of British institutions. "Modernity is our spirit; it is the spirit of an age, the desire to build a new Britain free from the old prejudices," he intoned.

This is the message that he shared with the Queen over lunch at Balmoral; yesterday, it went to the trades unions.

In both cases, however, Mr Blair has talked of the desirability for progress to be made in a spirit of partnership. In both the Bank and parts of the Treasury, that spirit seems to be lacking. Over the summer, hostility between the Bank and the Treasury apparently reached screaming pitch as the Bank proved unable to help in the drafting of the arrangements that would remove responsibility for managing

the national debt from the Bank to the Treasury. Hardly surprising, then, that some members of Mr Brown's staff are no more enamoured of Mr George than they were when they moved into office and rapidly indicated their enthusiasm for his prompt departure.

But the City did not approve then and would not approve now of any ousting of the Governor.

A risky business

Investing in frilly lingerie is a risky business, whether as an optimistic purchaser of Christmas gifts or as a buyer of shares. The story of La Senza is enough to drive one straight back to the safety and respectability of Marks & Spencer.

This bald statement from the company sums up a sorry chapter

of City selling at its worst. "In all the circumstances, the illustrative projections set out in the company's prospectus dated 1st May 1996 should be disregarded." You may wonder what has happened in the intervening months to render as though the exciting prospects that faced this retail chain. We are asked to believe that the main problem has been that property rents have risen, so putting a brake on the company's ambitious expansion plans. This had the unfortunate knock-on effect of leaving La Senza overstocked with all the undies that had been purchased in advance for the new stores that it expected to open.

Investors, who have seen shares that they bought at 150p now slump to just 38.5p, may not feel sympathetic to such a pathetic excuse. Retail rents have indeed gone up since La Senza's directors talked of their plans to

open more shops, but the reason that they have risen is because there have been more customers on the high street. If La Senza had been doing its job properly, it would have been able to take the shops and sell its wares.

But the information that was missing from the prospectus when broker Williams de Broe floated the company was that it was still in its infancy in this country, and was barely able to walk into town, let alone race across Britain.

The investment in infrastructure and systems that is at the heart of modern retail success stories was not in evidence at this British version of a concept that is already proven as a winner with Canadian shoppers. The idea may have been right, but the execution was sadly lacking.

Now, we are told, the board is being strengthened and La Senza is still aiming to make itself a

national brand. Yesterday's dismal figures and appalling excuses should not encourage investors to see this as anything more than wishful thinking. The chaps at Williams de Broe may not have noticed, but the fact is that M&S has become remarkably adventurous in its lingerie department, and it knows how to run a retail business.

Ford adds up the sum of the parts

Development of a global car market is accelerating changes in the components industry so fast that even motor manufacturers are having to reform their Cinderella in-house operations to cope. If vertically integrated groups are to impose on themselves the much higher design and quality standards that they now require from outside suppliers, they must test them against the competition. The only way to do that is to compete harder for other carmakers' business.

Ford, which is to transform its boring old Automotive Products Operations into dynamic new

Visteon, follows General Motors, which spawned dynamic new Delphi Automotive Systems three years ago. But there was silence amid the logo-hype at Frankfurt on whether this might hasten rationalisation of Visteon's 74 plants or whole lumps of the business.

This owes much to GM's frustration. The world's number one component maker has found that powerful US unions want nothing of closures, let alone downgrading pay or conditions to the level of smaller suppliers.

Britain's top components groups, forcibly upgraded by the demands of Japanese carmakers, should benefit from more open competition. Traditional niche suppliers are cast as victims of the trend to component systems. Any cuts in loss-making in-house capacity will give them hope too.

Less by stealth

If Lonrho did not want to merge with JCI, why is it giving it £25 million in cash for Tavistock coal? JCI is sure to use the cash to fund the purchase of its option over 27 per cent of Lonrho and has not hidden the fact that it will then use the stake to force merger talks back on the agenda. Rather than allow JCI to swallow Lonrho by stealth, the board would serve shareholders better by persuading JCI to table a real offer and put them out of their misery.

Queens Moat Houses moves back into black

BY DOMINIC WALSH

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES, which almost collapsed in 1992 after a £922 million asset write-down, returned to the black in the first half with a pre-tax profit of £5.2 million before exceptional costs of £1.1 million.

The company has reduced net debts from £933.1 million at the year-end to £818.5 million. In February, the 25-strong County Hotels chain was sold to Hamros European Ventures for £91.5 million.

Debt repayments are ahead of schedule at present. However, in 1999, the company must pay back £50 million. In 2000, the figure rises to £165 million, added to which it will

have to start paying hefty interest on its junior debt.

Analysts believe that further refinancing is inevitable. This would probably involve a "giant rights issue", possibly when QMH reports its full-year results.

The company declined to comment on the timing of any refinancing, although Andrew Le Poidevin, finance director, said: "Our basic choice will be to make a biggish disposal or introduce some equity on to the balance sheet."

The UK disposal programme is virtually complete, but QMH continues to reduce its continental portfolio. Of its 34 German hotels, it expects to retain no more than 20 and

Andrew Coppel, chief executive, said: "With good underlying trading profits, these results show we are maintaining the momentum achieved last year." Again, there is no dividend.

Rentokil in £67m purchase

Rentokil Initial is buying the textile services operations of Compagnie Générale des Eaux for £67 million.

These include a 40 per cent stake in BTB, in which it was in merger talks earlier this year, to buy its coalmining interests, for Rand 1.7 billion (£225 million). (See commentary, this page.)

The move is expected — not least by Tiny Rowland, the former chief executive of Lonrho — to provide JCI with the money to take its stake in Lonrho to 29.9 per cent.

JCI has an option to buy a 27 per cent stake in Lonrho now owned by Anglo American, the South Africa conglomerate. Buying the stake could force Lonrho to reopen merger talks with JCI. South Africa's

Lonrho to buy JCI coalmine interests

BY DOMINIC WALSH

LONRHO yesterday struck a deal with JCI, the South African group with which it was in merger talks earlier this year, to buy its coalmining interests, for Rand 1.7 billion (£225 million). (See commentary, this page.)

The move is expected — not least by Tiny Rowland, the former chief executive of Lonrho — to provide JCI with the money to take its stake in Lonrho to 29.9 per cent.

JCI has an option to buy a 27 per cent stake in Lonrho now owned by Anglo American, the South Africa conglomerate. Buying the stake could force Lonrho to reopen merger talks with JCI. South Africa's

BBA ready to spend £200m on expansion

BY ADAM JONES

BBA, the engineering conglomerate, is ready to spend up to £200 million on acquisitions to expand its core businesses. However, the company said it was confident it could grow organically.

BBA reported pre-tax profits up 11 per cent to £80.2 million in the six months to June 30, in spite of a £4 million hit from currency movement.

BBA agreed to buy Beorcit, a German maker of railway

bake pads, for £28 million last month. Roberto Quarta, chief executive, said that a decision on whether to sell the specialist electrical division, seen by some as a drag on growth, would be taken by the end of the year.

An interim dividend of 2.4p (2.1p) will be paid on November 14 as a foreign income dividend.

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Provision of £25m made by Charter

CHARTER, the engineering group that took over Howden in April, has taken a £25 million provision to rationalise the industrial fans business (Carl Mortished writes). Jeffrey Herbert, chairman, said that Howden plants in North America, continental Europe and Asia would be closed in an effort to improve Howden's margins. Underlying profits in Charter's welding and rail track business grew 12 per cent at constant rates of exchange but the strength of sterling kept pre-tax profits flat, at £51.5 million. Charter is paying an interim dividend of 9.5p per share, up 6 per cent.

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Burford's founder steps down to start all over again

BY JASON NISSE

NICK LESLAU, who founded Burford 15 years ago, is standing down as chief executive of the property company, just a week after merger talks with MEPC were called off.

The move, which caused Burford shares to fall 4p to 104p, came after the market value fell below the company's

net asset value for the first time in nearly a decade, reflecting the collapse in the market's view of the high flying stock this year. The share price rose eightfold between 1990 and the start of this year but has since fallen a third.

Mr Leslau, 37, who dropped out of Warwick University because he was bored, said he did not want to remain managing a large property company in

which he has only a 2 per cent stake. He plans to return to the market rapidly with a deal to inject some property assets into a quoted shell company, rather like the manner in which Burford floated in 1986.

"It's not a question of money, it's a question of challenge," Mr Leslau said yesterday. "This company has become too big for me. I want to do it all again,

but with a bigger piece of the action." Mr Leslau will remain as non-executive deputy chairman of Burford, with John Anderson, who joined last year from Ladbrooke, taking over as chief executive. Nigel Wray, the other half of the duo behind Burford, will remain as chairman. Mr Leslau said he expected Mr Wray to be involved in the new venture, at least as an investor.

PROBLEM

Official: computer time bomb 'will wreck business'

Apocalypse soon

ries on racking the effects of the Year 2000 problem with a look at a "pathetically simple computer glitch" that could destroy the world, according to an official report.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Half of all new PCs fail 2000 Bios test

Experts call for proof of PC year 2000 compliance as tests show millennium bug will hit desktops

Half of all new PCs fail 2000 Bios test

Chips are down for home computers

By DAVID DEVEREUX

Software companies in the UK are reporting a sharp drop in sales of desktop computers as consumers wait for the new century to start.

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Software companies in the

STOCK MARKET

FRAZER NELSON

Pharmaceuticals on run as Biocompatibles dives

The phenomenal run of Biocompatibles International ended yesterday as the drug firm lost its title of the second-best performing stock in the UK with one of the most spectacular one-day falls seen in the City for months. The shares fell 415p to 732½p, a drop of 36 per cent.

Although dealers said the company's problems with an American deal says little about the industry as a whole, the speed of its share price collapse sent shivers through the pharmaceutical sector as shares in 18 drugs companies finished lower.

The retreat was led by Glaxo Wellcome, which fell 33p to £12.85, as it said that plans to sell its Besconase drug over the counter had hit problems.

Zeneca, which had begun to recover after recovering from its fall to £22.65, eased another 10p to £19.23a. Chiroscience also lost some of its recent gains, falling 10p to 287½p, while Oxford Molecular was 7p softer at 297½p.

Dealers said the sector is still recovering from the run of interim reports where almost all drugs companies showed pressure on margins.

The sector had been beginning to catch up on the FTSE 100's strong summer run. The better-than-expected inflation figures were ignored by the City, as the FTSE 100 slipped 34.7 points to 4,905.5 in another quiet day.

Trading was thin, leaving greater leverage than normal to the few rumours circulating around dealing rooms.

Shares in EMI opened some 6p cheaper as Seagram refused to comment on reports that it may mount a takeover bid for the music company. However, some dealers remained suspicious that neither side would issue a flat denial and the shares ended the day up 1p at 57½p.

Cadbury Schweppes fell 6p to 593p on US reports that it is on the point of launching 7-up in the US. Concerns have already been raised about its enthusiasm to pour millions into a marketing campaign, and detailed reports have been circulating in Wall Street suggesting an announcement could be due by the end of the month.

Marks & Spencer was hard hit by the latest survey from the British Retail Consortium that provided further evidence that consumer spending is



Barbara Richmond, finance director of Cruda where the shares fell 54p to 356p, left, with Keith Hopkins

tailing off. Its shares dropped 15½p to 593p, dragging shares of Dixons, down 5½p to 633p, Next, from 789½p to 766p, and Great Universal Stores, 3½p to 659½p.

Argos bucked the trend, with shares strengthening 28p to 644½p on the back of institutional presentations.

The financial sector shrugged off early pressure

levied on mortgage lenders, which emerged in early trading in further response to figures showing that houses sold moved up in value but not in volume.

Abbey National lost 8½p, closing at 862½p, while Barclays finished 1p easier at £14.51.

The new constituents of the FTSE 100 will be decided at a

steering committee meeting today. Mercury Asset Management found itself a favourite for relegation, with the shares easing 10p to 1215p.

Hanson, the former conglomerate that narrowly avoided joining the FTSE 250 sector last time, also found its shares marked 5½p lower at 317½p.

The September results season lifted a few smaller companies higher. Adscene, a publisher of local newspapers and leaflets, gained 10p to 119½p after returning £4.8 million (£5.05 million) for the year.

Powderject, the needless drugs administering company whose shares joined the market at 179p in July, has sealed a £9.4 million deal with a German distributor which will help to develop its technology. Its shares gained 5p to 197½p.

Crude International, where Keith Hopkins is chief executive, returned flat after profit of £22.6 million (£22.5 million). Concern about second-hand trading saw its shares drop 5½p to 358p.

Among the blue chips, Reuters proved the strongest performer in the FTSE 100, gaining 19½p to 667p after UBS reiterated its positive stance on the company.

On the Alternative Investment Market, Celtic advanced by another 65 to £315 in delayed reaction to its decision to quit the Scottish Football Association with Heart of Midlothian, its quoted rival, was steady at 108½p.

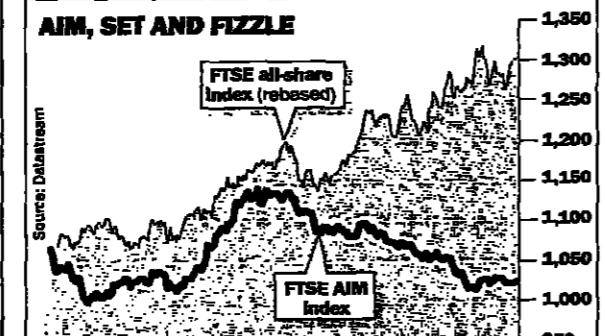
La Senza, the troubled lingerie specialist whose shares have already fallen from their 150p flotation price to 64p, lost a further 26½p to close at a new low of 38½p. It has

decided to drop its store opening programme — which it built its expansion hopes on — after its pre-tax losses deepened to £2.9 million.

IS Solutions joined AIM yesterday, and was awarded a premium of 1½p to its 135p flotation price.

GILT-EDGED: The inflation data was also ignored by bonds dealers, as prices closed slightly weaker. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 fell 1½ to 102½p. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 dropped 1½ to 102½p.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average, down 1.16 points to 7,834.02, lacked clear direction at midday, while other indexes drifted to record highs.



A FEW months past its second anniversary, the Alternative Investment Market has distinguished itself by being the only sector to have declined in value over the past 12 months of London's bull equity run.

The FTSE AIM index, which started at 1,000 in January 1996, has fallen 4.7 per cent since last September, while the FTSE all-share is 100 up in 22 per cent.

A high-risk, high-reward exchange, AIM has never promised anyone a safe investment. It has its stars: Arion Properties has become the best performing

UK equity over the past 12 months, with shares soaring 288 per cent to 29p.

But its losers are among the worst performers. Active Imaging, has lost 92 per cent in value. Club partners 88 per cent and Cres International 80 per cent.

The FTSE AIM index is dictated by the performance of the few giants on the junior exchange. Critics say it cannot be used to judge a market where size is not supposed to matter.

Still, of the 184 companies listed for the past 12 months, only 44 per cent have seen their shares rise.

LIFTE		GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES	
COICOA		LIFTE WHEAT (close £/t)	
Sep 1112-105 Dec	1213 SLR	Sep 87.5	80.00
Dec 105/141 Mar	1226 SLR	Sep 88.5	82.00
May 1177 SLR Jul	1247 DFT	Sep 92.5	86.30
Jul 1192-170 Sep	1247 DFT	Sep 94.5	91.70
Sep 1205-1204 Volume 3316		Volume 45	
ROBUSTA COFFEE (S)		LIFTE POTATO (L) open	
Sep 181-170 May	1855 SLR	Sep 97.5	92.00
Nov 190-189 Sep	1855 SLR	Sep 101.0	102.00
Jan 195-190 Sep	1855 SLR	Sep 102.5	103.00
Mar 195-179 Volume 375		Volume 79	
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)		RUBBER (No 1 RSS CI) f/t	
Sep 105-104 May	1055 SLR	Sep 97.0	105.00
Oct 110-109 Sep	1055 SLR	Sep 107.0	108.00
Dec 110-109 Oct	1055 SLR	Sep 110.0	109.00
Mar 120-120.5 Nov	1055 SLR	Sep 115.0	116.00
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION		LIFTE BEEF/GRAIN L (close £/t)	
Avg price per representative markets on September 8		High	Low
(pig) £1.24	114.17	108.11	108.11
Sheep £1.47	114.17	114.17	114.17
Englander £1.45	114.45	114.92	114.92
Sheep £1.77	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.78	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.79	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.80	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.81	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.82	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.83	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.84	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.85	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.86	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.87	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.88	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.89	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.90	107.95	107.95	107.95
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Sheep £1.97	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.98	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £1.99	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.00	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.01	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.02	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.03	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.04	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.05	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.06	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.07	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.08	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.09	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.10	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.11	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.12	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.13	107.95	107.95	107.95
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Sheep £2.15	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.16	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.17	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.18	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.19	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.20	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.21	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.22	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.23	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.24	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.25	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.26	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.27	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.28	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.29	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.30	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.31	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.32	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.33	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.34	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.35	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.36	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.37	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.38	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.39	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.40	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.41	107.95	107.95	107.95
Sheep £2.42	107		

Devolution will give business a closer link to government

As top Scottish businessmen urge a 'no' vote tomorrow, Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State, says 'yes' is best for commerce

Scotland tomorrow faces an historic choice. Twenty years of debate comes to an end and the time for decisions arrives. The Government's White Paper, *Scotland's Parliament*, sets out a detailed and thoroughly considered set of proposals which, taken together, will rejuvenate Scottish public life and usher in a new kind of democratic politics. That the politics of Scotland will benefit from devolution is no longer seriously questioned, even by those campaigning against our proposals in the referendum. However, what will be the impact on Scottish business? And does the assertion that our proposals pose a threat to business stand up to scrutiny?

I have spent a great deal of time meeting businessmen and business organisations to explain our proposals and how we see them working in practice. These discussions have been constructive and I am delighted that the Scottish business community is engaged so vigorously in the devolution debate. Attention has focused on two issues—the tax-varying power that is proposed for the Scottish parliament; and the possible impact of devolution on non-domestic rates.

The Scottish parliament will, if the proposal is endorsed in the referendum tomorrow, have a limited power to vary the basic rate of income tax in Scotland by three pence in the pound, up or down. This power will relate to personal income tax only. To



Donald Dewar believes that what business can do for a Scottish parliament is just as important as what a parliament can do for Scottish business

maintain the level playing field for business throughout the UK, legislative competence over commercial law, corporate taxation, financial regulation, competition policy and a range of other issues is reserved to Westminster.

Of course, if the Scottish parliament chooses to exercise its discretion over income tax in a particular way, the potential impact—either positive or negative—depends entirely on how it is used. The same point might be made in relation to the powers proposed for the parliament in, say, transport policy or housing. That is democracy. We trust the people of Scotland, and the representatives they elect, to

make decisions that are in Scotland's best interests. If, for example, they want to see a cut in personal income tax, they will have to live with the revenue consequences. Labour is already committed to a policy of not raising income tax for five years and this holds for any Labour representation in a Scottish parliament as well. But financial powers are an essential part and parcel of the democratic choices that many other devolved governments in Europe take for granted and they are important if the Scottish parliament is to be democratically mature and fiscally responsible.

It is also right, for much the

same reasons, that the Scottish parliament should assume the powers over local taxation that currently reside with me, as Secretary of State. Does anyone seriously suggest—after the shenanigans surrounding the poll tax, which would have been laughable if they had not been so expensive to the public purse—that Westminster is better placed to provide democratic control over these issues than a Scottish parliament?

Bill Anderson, of the Scottish Federation of Small Businesses, has already drawn attention to how much easier it will be for business to influence decisions on these matters once they have been devolved.

I have addressed these two issues specifically because they have attracted public comment from a number of leading business figures. But in reality the new opportunities that devolution will unlock for the Scottish business community are much more significant.

I expect business interests to have a direct and continuing influence on a Scottish parliament. For example, they will be able to make a major contribution to the parliament's decisions on education. Democracy is a two-way street, and what business can do for a Scottish parliament is just as important as what a parliament can do for Scottish business. Scottish busi-

ness, in dialogue with a Scottish parliament, can be more certain of getting its message across and seeing its interests addressed than it can be when dealing with a UK Parliament where it is merely one regional or sectional interest among many.

Since May 1, 16 inward investment projects, creating 3,000 new jobs, have been announced. For these companies—operating in the hard-headed world of international business—the attractions of Scotland have not been dulled by the prospect of devolution. Perhaps, indeed, they have been sharpened by it. Scotland's image overseas will be enhanced by the renewed focus for growth and investment, bringing particular benefits to those industries that rely on Scotland's reputation for excellence.

I believe that the wisdom and judgment of the Scottish people will guide a Scottish parliament's decisions. For all true democrats, in the world of commerce and elsewhere, that is the conclusive argument in favour of devolution.

A yes/no vote on Thursday will be good for the Scottish polity and, by definition, good for one of its most influential components—Scottish business.

Healthy climate for hedges and the IMF

There is old crack that an emerging market is one from which you cannot emerge in an emergency. It was widely disregarded until recently after the great Mexican crisis, investors seem to have assumed that all governments had learned prudence.

They know better now. The landscape is full of lame tigers, and now, with the ominous Colombian slide in the exchange markets, it seems that even Latin America needs a second re-education. Nice weather for hedge funds—and, it may prove, for the International Monetary Fund. Its annual meeting later this month is likely to be a much happier occasion than it can have hoped.

The IMF has never been popular: those who prescribe nasty medicine cannot expect to be loved—especially if they make a habit of flying first class to bankrupt countries. But this never worried IMF officials in Washington: indeed, they made a virtue of unpopularity. By offering itself as a scapegoat, they would explain, the IMF made it possible for governments to take actions that would otherwise have spelled political death.

What was beginning to threaten its future, though, was economic success. As years passed without a crisis requiring an IMF cure, its enemies in the US Congress always anxious to find spending cuts that do not hit any US voters, painted it as an expensive relic and began to argue for its abolition. The global capital market would impose any discipline that might be needed. This looks far too optimistic now, and nobody would defend the Fund more stoutly than its new Asian clients. An IMF package may be painful, but not as bad as the alternative, a real working-over in the markets. Even the defiant Dr Mahathir of Malaysia has now embraced official austerity.

But is the IMF's current role to protect governments from their own folly, or rather to protect investors from theirs? All the recent financial collapses—even that of Japan—were triggered by an irrational financial market boom. Hence the problems for

One uncomfortable fact remains: both the potential saviours of an unrestrained global market economy—the funds and the Fund—depend on crises for their continued existence. No volatility, no profits for the hedge funds; no crises, no tolerance for the sometimes overbearing IMF. It looks like a system that can only go on working at all so long as it does not work perfectly.

A deal to bother 'Arfur' Daley

Jason Nissé explains why the used car market will never be the same again as Car Group buys its rival

been augmented by a 10,000 sq ft site at Northampton.

The two existing Car Group sites will sell more than 30,000 cars this year. Empress has a turnover of 30,000 cars a year on its three sites in South Wales. One of these will be converted to retailing cars of more than five years of age, enabling Car Group to sell motors it has taken in part-exchange rather than putting them out to auction.

The deal with Empress came about through a mixture of commercial tension and opportunism. Though Empress is a well-established business, Peter King, Car

Group's aggressive chief executive, had seen a chance to beat it at its own game and was planning to open a rival site in Newport, Gwent.

Empress had tried to block Car Group's planning permission. In the midst of the battle, Richard Farr, the venture capitalist who chairs Car Group, discovered that Empress's tax exile owners, Bob and Jane Morris, were negotiating to sell the group to a management buy-in team. So Car Group nipped in and offered a higher price.

Its expansion is threatening the profitability of many of the UK's leading car dealers. The likes of Dixons Motors, DC

Cook and Reg Vardy make a substantial part of their profit from used car sales. Car Group's supermarkets undercut other dealers on price and offer buyers a wider choice.

Car Group's deals with hire car chains and leasing companies to buy their used cars is cutting off many of the sources of quality used cars to the conventional dealers. "Car Group is becoming the gorilla on the block and it is worrying the other dealers," said one City analyst.

The Empress deal is far from being the end of Car Group's ambitions. It has also applied for planning permission for two more sites—one

believed to be off the M62 in Yorkshire, the other on the outskirts of London—and Empress has an option on a site in Coventry. If these are developed, Car Group could be selling nearly 100,000 used cars a year.

It is also trying to break into the £6 billion a year private sale market—people selling through the likes of *Exchange & Mart, Automotor and Loot*. In a deal with Lloyds TSB and Royal & SunAlliance, it is offering warranties for second-hand cars sold privately. There is little profit in this deal for Car Group, but it enables the company to build up a database of car owners to whom it can attempt to sell used cars.

Car Group is revolutionising the second-hand car market in Britain. The days of 'Arfur' Daley are long gone.

with one of those tailored, computerised mail-shots that assume an immediate and close, nay blood, relationship with the recipient. One went to a friend's business address, at Something Something Ltd. "If you consider The Economist of limited appeal, perhaps you should think again," it trumpeted. The letter somewhat weakened its case by beginning "Dear Mr Ltd".

Launch aid

WHATEVER the turmoil at the Bank of England, I hear that David Clementi, the new Deputy Governor, is about to emerge into the light at his first official engagement at the Bank. There since the start of this month, he will co-host a reception at Threadneedle Street a week today aimed at raising £4 million for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

This is the first time the RNLI has tried to raise money from the business sector for a specific project. Clementi, as many will know since his unexpected elevation to the public eye, is a keen sailor.

And it seems that Whelan, while less than pleased with the subject matter, was even less happy with the title. "New Headache, New Treasury", wasn't it? Be it hereby known that the phrase New This, New That is Labour Party copyright, and not to be used for anything as frivolous as a discussion on employees' rights in the workplace.

MARTIN WALLER



David Clementi: known as a keen sailor

Going rate

WHAT IS this from Scottish Media, né Scottish TV, where they might have been expected to be a bit more careful with their cash? Gus Macdonald is moving up to non-executive chairman from the start of next year. The one-time left-wing firebrand and shipyard worker, who has been at Scottish TV for more than a decade now, will be taking it easier from now on, one assumes. Non-executives tend to work fewer hours than full-timers, after all, and Gus is 57.

But I hear Macdonald's contract says he must be paid at the executive rate for two

years after he steps up—or down, depending on how you look at it. He made £240,000 last year, £225,000 of this basic salary, which is presumably what he will get in future. Negotiations on the subject continue. I am not suggesting that he is not worth every penny. And I never knew that his real name was Angus.

• A VIGNETTE from Brighton: the Beloved Leader has spoken, and the press are filling into a conference to be given by John Monks, the TUC General Secretary. The hushed silence is broken by a mobile phone. The tune? Whistle While You Work, from Snow White. Better known as the dwarfs' working song.

A SERIOUS and justified kicking for the Prudential from the Advertising Standards Authority, the virtually toothless watchdog that polices the outer limits of the advertising game. "Why you'll be better off with Prudential because we're No 1 in our field" was the offending ad in the national press. No 1 at what? Some, but not all, of the pension and life assurance business, said the agency.



Barkers; not good enough, said the ASA. In future the Pru will have to say which bits they reckon they are best at. I should lay off pensions for a start, at least until you have sorted out the mess from last time you claimed you were good at it.

But the ASA lacks the ability to find anyone for such blatant lying and puffery, and anyway, even the six-figure numbers that City regulators can demand are a grisly bite to the likes of the Pru. A thought: Why not fine the agencies who produce such trash, and tend to be fairly slender beasts? I know nothing about the finances of Barkers, but I imagine half a million would leave a bit of a hole there.

• THE ECONOMIST is courting potential readers

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1997

ARTS PREVIEW 33

'Autumn shows: the critics' choice'

FILM

Geoff Brown

At the Cannes Film Festival in May, the Spice Girls paraded their wares to promote a project that barely existed except for the title, *Spice: The Movie*. Things move fast in the higher echelons of art, and the film will be presented to the nation's cinemas on Boxing Day. But that is a long way ahead. Before that, more substantial pleasures lie in wait. This month, prepare to be astonished by Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter*, an elegiac adaptation of Russell Banks' novel about a small town devastated by grief after a school bus accident. Past films from the Canadian have been dominated by voyeuristic games and technology; here he rediscovers human beings.

Mid-September brings Mike Leigh's *Career Girls*, the tale of two college friends meeting up after six years. The film may appear slight next to *Secrets & Lies*, but it is affecting in its exploration of fond hopes and harsh reality. British cinema also comes up trumps with *Nil by Mouth* (Oct 10), Gary Oldman's directorial debut, inspired by his own East London upbringing.

One week later, Stephen Fry appears as Oscar Wilde in *Wilde*, from the director of *Tom & Viv*, Brian Gilbert. Given the advances in sexual politics since the last round of Wilde films in 1960, one might expect this to do the trick. And it does the trick more than it does. But there is an emotional maturity here that impresses. November brings two British movies with European ties: Michael Winterbottom's *Welcome to Sarajevo*, weighed down with hokum, and *The Tango Lesson* from Sally Potter (director of *Orlando*), a film destined to send you out with a rose between your teeth.

And from Hollywood? There is *Home Alone 3*, if you can stand it. There is Demi Moore in Ridley Scott's *G.I. Jane*, head shaved, suffering exquisite physical punishment as the first female in the Navy Seals. There is *Volcano*, which sends lava and clichés all over Los Angeles. There is also *Face/Off*, a tricky thriller from John Woo with John Travolta and Nicolas Cage.

If you want Hollywood movies with sense, your best bets are the fitfully impressive *Contact* (Sept 20), directed by Robert Zemeckis, with Jodie Foster making contact with extraterrestrials; and *LA Confidential* (Oct 3), a gripping yarn about LA in the Fifties from Curtis Hanson.

Where are the foreign-language movies? All but nowhere, though Chen Kaige's sumptuous drama *Empress Moon*, with Leslie Cheung and Gong Li surfaces on Oct 10. This follows a family as they fall apart under the influence of opium and social change in the 1910s. Then the French hit *Ma Vie en Rose* arrives (Oct 24), wrapping up the troubles of a seven-year-old boy who wants to be a girl.



Men in frock coats, and frocks: Stephen Fry plays the title role in *Wilde*, out next month; while the all-male cast of Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo warms up for a London appearance next week



Sharks, sex and satire

Most controversial art show of the autumn? It's bound to be *Sensation* (Royal Academy, from Sept 18).

VISUAL ART

Richard Cork

and His Times (from Sept 26). Other Hogarth shows are at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester (from Friday), the National Gallery (from Monday), the Thomas Coram Foundation, London (from Nov 5), and the V&A (from Oct 15).

Objects of Desire is the seductive title of the Hayward Gallery's big autumn show (from Oct 9). It examines the surprisingly central role played by still-life subjects in 20th-century art.

Many of modernism's outstanding masters from Matisse and Picasso to Duchamp, are included.

At the Tate, Victorian art at its most dreamlike is explored in *The Age of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and Watts* (from Oct 16). By a

happy coincidence, the Royal Academy's *Victorian Fairy Painting* show opens soon afterwards (from Nov 13). The major figure will be "Mad" Richard Dadd, who killed his father and spent much of his career painting hypnotic fairytale scenes in Bedlam. But the show reveals how widespread the craze for occult subjects was.

A single painting by Holbein is the centrepiece of the National Gallery's most important autumn offering (from Oct 9). His recently cleaned *Ambassadors* is familiar enough, but the show widens out to include a fascinating exploration of his working methods.

The Serpentine Gallery marks its return after redevelopment with a major retrospective devoted to Piero Manzoni (from Nov 27). Dying at the age of 30 in 1963, Manzoni nevertheless produced an influential body of work revolutionary yet highly refined.

The tercentenary celebrations of Hogarth, another stubborn individualist, come to a climax with the British Museum's *Hogarth*

In dance the season kicks off in familiar style with pointe shoes and tutus — only this time it's men wearing the frocks. After an absence of ten years, Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo returns to London (Peacock Theatre, Sept 15-28). This is ballet as you have never seen it before: all the swans and sylphs of the classical repertoire are performed by the men. It's hilarious, but accomplished too.

Meanwhile, the temporarily homeless Royal Ballet, setting up shop in the Labatt's Apollo in west London, a theatre better known as a rock venue. The season (Sept 24-Oct 18) is launched with the unbeatable team of Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Cope in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Oiselle* and *The Sleeping Beauty* follow later.

City Ballet of London, the company formed out of the ashes of London City Ballet, unveils new *Sleeping Beauty* (Orchard, Dartford, Sept 18) before going on tour. Northern Ballet Theatre celebrates the tenth anniversary of Christopher Gable's directorship with his 1930s-style *Giselle* (Lyceum, Sheffield, Sept 29).

There's something odd about those sylphs

DANCE

Dolores Crane

launching Birmingham Royal Ballet's season. The story of the tormented homosexual monarch, based on Christopher Marlowe's 1592 play, is billed as "probably the most violent, disturbing and bloody ballet ever created". English National Ballet,

meanwhile, has a new *Nutcracker* courtesy of Derek Deane, who promises one or two surprises. It premieres at the Mayflower in Southampton (Nov 13) and moves to the Coliseum (Dec 8-Jan 10).

Dance Umbrella (Oct 21-Nov 15, various London venues) sees the return of the Stephen Petronio Company from New York and also features the belated British debut of one of France's leading choreographers, Maguy Marin. And the Belfast Festival (Nov 14-30) scores a real coup by presenting the UK premiere of Merce Cunningham's *Ocean*, the last collaboration between Cunningham and John Cage.

From Max to McCartney

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

enches with its scathingly funny portrayal of the Glasgow street scene. Nothing in the West End can compensate for the enforced ending of an adventurous season of rep as the commercial theatre has ever seen; but the West End is hardly barren this autumn.

Maggie Smith and Eileen Atkins are back onstage in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* (Haymarket, Oct 21), in some critics' view as fine a piece as the same author's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Simon McBurney of Theatre de Complicite will be directing Geraldine McEwan in Ionesco's absurdist *Chair* (*Duke of York's*, Nov 24) as part of a city-wide festival of French drama. But expect most fuss and hype for Ruthie Henshall as a celebrity murderer in Kander and Ebb's *Chicago* (Adelphi, Nov 18), revived last year with a huge success on Broadway.

Out of town, look for Zoë Wanamaker in Sophocles' *Electra* (Chichester, Sept 18, transferring to the Donmar), Pete Postlethwaite as a touring Macbeth (Bristol Old Vic, Oct 14). Janet Suzman's production of South African Brecht's *The Good Woman of Shadrack* (West Yorkshire, Leeds, Oct 16) and the opening of Terry Hands's regime at Theatr Clwyd with his own revivals of Peter Shaffer's *Equus* (Oct 2).

National Nunn

This autumn, Trevor Nunn takes over the National, the RSC returns to the Barbican after summering in the regions, and, as if to ensure that not all prospects please, Peter Hall departs the Old Vic after a season to remember.

Nunn will himself be directing two productions: Ibsen's *Enemy of the People* with Ian McKellen as ballyhoo Stockmann (Sept 19) and *Mutability* (Nov 20), a new play by Frank McGuinness set in Elizabethan Ireland and likely to demonstrate why not every Emerald Islander has rapturous feelings about the English. But the major event at the National is surely Richard Eyre's valedictory production of the new Tom Stoppard, a play about A.E. Housman's Oxford, called *The Invention of Love* (Oct 1).

The RSC's Stratford season continues with the twin openings this week of Antony Sher in *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Michael Sheen in *Henry V*. The latter production moves to London (Nov 6), and will be followed there by Matthew Warchus's eccentric *Hamlet* (Dec 4) and Ian Judge's *Merry Wives of Windsor* (Dec 17). But an equally important date for Barbican-watchers is October 15. That's when the great Ninagawa opens *Shinkoku-Maru*, a Japanese play with echoes of *Oedipus and Phaedra*.

Down at the Vic, soon to be sold, Peter Hall presents three contemporary pieces, notably Chris Hannan's *Shining Souls* (Nov 10), which has already impressed Scots audi-

MUSIC

Richard Morrison

McCartney will unveil his Celtic-tinged choral epic, *Standing Stone* (Albert Hall, Oct 14). Peter Maxwell Davies also has a new choral work, *The Rising* (Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, Oct 16), marking the 250th anniversary of the 1745 Rebellion. Mathematicians will point out that Max is a little late; others may feel that his timing is spot on to catch the rising tide of Scottish devolution.

John Eliot Gardiner continues his fine *Schumann Revealed* project (Barbican, Oct 3-5). Also at the Barbican is *Visions of Albion* (Oct 3), celebrating the 25th anniversary of Vaughan Williams's birth. Meanwhile, the backbone of the London Philharmonic's Festival Hall series is a Prokofiev Festival (Nov 25-Dec 3).

Finally, all eyes on three new brooms. The Philharmonia has its first full season under the direction of the stern Christoph von Dohnányi (Festival Hall). The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic will be hoping that the Czech maestro Petr Altrichter proves a worthy successor to his compatriot Libor Pešek. And in Glasgow the underrated Alexander Lazarev starts as principal conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

on Friday with a new *Fidelio* conducted by Carlo Rizzi, followed swiftly with Sir Charles Mackerras conducting *La clemenza di Tito* (Sept 24), and later by David Alden's neo-Eurotrash version of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Oct 11). Opera North starts on Saturday with a powerfully cast revival of Philip Prowse's brilliant *Aida*, and proceeds with the most eagerly awaited autumn production: Martini's haunting dream opera *Juiletta*, in a staging

by David Pountney and Stefanos Lazaridis (Oct 3). And Scottish Opera cautiously starts with a revival of *Norma* (Sep 16), followed by Kenny Ireland's new production of *Rigoletto* with the Macedonian baritone Boris Trajanov in the title role (Sep 30).

The Donizetti bicentenary has not been lavishly marked, but two concerts are essential: the RO's premiere (Oct 16, Festival Hall) of *Elsazetta*, whose autograph was found moulderling in Covent Garden, and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment playing *Lin da di Chamounix*, conducted by Mark Elder (Nov 21, Festival Hall; Nov 24, Birmingham).

maggie
smith

eileen
atkins

john standing

edward albee

balance

sian thomas
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carl tom

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What price job satisfaction?

Joan Llewelyn Owens reports on the secretaries for whom money is not the most important factor

For some secretaries money is not the primary consideration. A congenital environment matters far more. Best of all is a job which relates to their personal interests — in the arts and media, the environment, education, politics or helping the sick and underprivileged.

A number express a distinct distaste for the commercial world. Permanent Prospects is one of several recruitment agencies specialising in the non-commercial sector. Managing director Maggie Heap says: "I think the people who come to register here have some kind of moral conscience. Money is not a high priority and they want to contribute to society. A phrase that comes up a lot is, 'I would prefer to do some good than help to line shareholders' pockets'."

Do such people lose out financially? Certainly they are not paid as much as a secretary in the financial sector, but they claim to have a great deal more job satisfaction.

Do you have to go without if you work for a charity? Vicki Pulman, of the Charities Aid Foundation, says it is difficult to draw conclusions about pay. There are 180,000 registered char-

ties, but around 20 per cent of them are responsible for raising 80 per cent of the income of the voluntary sector. Fundraising has recently become increasingly businesslike and competitive, and salaries have risen accordingly. Most of the remaining charities are tiny organisations with limited resources; they fear the introduction of a minimum wage.

"Charities are having to pay the going rate to get the right quality of people, and good secretaries are in short supply," says Vivienne Copeland of Reward Group. A survey of the charity sector last November showed that a director's secretary averaged £15,500 (lowest £11,000, highest £24,000) and a manager's secretary £13,500 (£8,300–£22,000).

The RSPCA, one of the largest employers in Horsham, West Sussex, felt its pay rates were comparable with other local employers. Rachel Flower, personnel officer with Blue Cross, thought much the same. Both these animal charities said they had many job applicants who were animal lovers. Both allowed staff to bring

their dogs to work, an added attraction of the job.

Olive Gearing, Oxfam's press officer, says that people work for them "because of the righteousness of our cause, but we don't pay a pittance". Money certainly doesn't motivate Diana Bray, 27,

'People who register here have some kind of moral conscience'

who provides secretarial support for six unit managers in the Oxfam appeals department. She had previously held a number of secretarial posts both in the UK and in Hong Kong, where she was born. Asked whether she gets less than she would in commerce,

she answers: "Salary is not an issue for me."

Mrs Bray likes being with Oxfam because it makes such a difference to people's lives. Another big plus is being able to work with dedicated, compassionate people, who are professional in their approach.

"Oxfam's income comes from donations, so we feel a big responsibility to the donors and to the people we work with in countries around the world. I think that this makes us very conscientious."

Another field in which money is less important is the arts. Diane Campbell, chief executive of the Grosvenor Bureau, says that people will work for a pittance in an arts organisation, particularly if it is connected with the theatre. (Last week the Royal National Theatre advertised for a secretary to the casting department. Enquiries revealed that the pay would be £13,500–£14,500, and some 40–50 applications were likely.)

People don't expect to make a fortune in publishing, either. It attracts many, including gradu-

ates with keyboard skills (essential), prepared to accept a low salary in the hope of progressing to editorial assistant and perhaps eventually to commissioning editor. A leading publishing house recently offered £14,000 for a managing director's secretary with book production knowledge to provide support for its managing editor.

People who train as medical secretaries do so, again, because they want to help people. Gloria Shersby was a secretary in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children before becoming education secretary of the Institute of Medical Secretaries, Practice Managers and Receptionists.

"Though practice managers are paid quite well," she says, "secretaries earn considerably less in the medical field than in commerce. They do it for love. It is a very rewarding job, though you may get to the point where you can't stand the bureaucracy."

Their input is certainly appreciated by the medical profession, who regard them as part of the team, both in hospital and general practice.

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Diana Bray earns less than elsewhere but says: "Salary is not an issue."

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This world leading Oxford based company are looking for a Senior Director's PA. Lots of scope to develop the role including organisation and extensive client liaison. 55wpm, MS Word, Powerpoint and Excel essential.

Please telephone 0171 628 9529.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SNR TEAM SEC £23,000 + Bonus

Enjoy the work hard, play hard environment! Join this young, international corporate finance team of four who will appreciate an on the ball professional with top secretarial skills. Hours 10-6.30. Prestigious west end location. 60 wpm typing.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE £25,000 + Bonus

Working for this high profile entrepreneur you will organise on a global level dealing with both business and personal lives. Suit Director level secretary looking for step up. Must be calm, polished and professional. 100wpm skills.

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Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

HR ADMINISTRATOR £20,000

Dynamic American publishing company, world leader in their sector, seek a bright individual with excellent communication skills. Areas of responsibility include research, recruitment and training as well as the general management of the HR department.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Top Rates of Pay CHANGING TIMES

Long and short temp assignments currently outstanding. We have recently won a new contract with a prestigious Merchant Bank. As a result we urgently require experienced secretaries and DTP operators now, with good knowledge of Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Please call 0171 822 2727 to arrange an immediate interview.

TAL(SMAN New Image
secretarial ltd

Bromo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London, W1A 2AB



Mark McCormack's sports and arts promotion group, IMG is looking for a:

**PA/Secretary
to Head of Client Finance**

An experienced secretary is needed to play a vital support role to the Head of our Client Finance Division. You will provide full secretarial assistance to him in all financial matters relating to our clients in a busy, sometimes pressurised environment. Ideal candidates for this demanding role will be formally trained secretaries, educated to at least A-level standard with first class audio skills and shorthand/speedwriting would be an advantage. Excellent written and spoken English are essential along with good communication skills and computer literacy, with the ability to remain calm when under pressure.

If you feel you have the above qualities and would like to be considered please write with full CV and note of salary expectation to Tara Maloney, Personnel Manager, IMG, Axis Centre, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, W4 2TH or fax 0181 233 5301.

EXPOTEL HOTEL RESERVATIONS LIMITED, UK's largest hotel booking agency employing over 300 staff requires a

SECRETARY/PA FOR DIRECTOR

The ideal candidate for this challenging role will possess excellent written and oral communication skills, have the ability to compose own correspondence and sound audio or shorthand.

Benefits include: BUPA Health Care + Pension Scheme + Travel Discounts

Please send CV and covering letter stating current salary to:

**Mr K Shah, Expotel Hotel Reservations Limited,
Kinggate House, Kinggate Place,
London NW6 4BG.**

SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN

of rapidly growing quoted Public Property Company in attractive Mayfair offices. The successful candidate will have excellent skills. Windows 95, word processing, spreadsheets, telephone, fax, previous legal experience would be useful. Must be prepared to cope with peaks of heavy workload and extended hours. Salary £22,00 pa.

Please call Harriet Patten on 0171 629 1188

NO AGENCIES

ADMIN/SECRETARY
Required to assist manager of the lettings department of a busy estate agency in Bayswater. Would suit 30+.

Contact:
Kelly Carole Green
0171-705 1116

PARIS LAW FIRM
with international clientele requiring a full time basic Word 6. Knowledge of French not essential.
Please apply to Box No 7241

New Positions

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into the following varied and challenging roles within last moving City and West End based companies:

- Graduate Secretary £16,000
- Personnel Secretary £18,000
- Quality co-ordinator £18,000
- A True PA £18,000
- Senior Project Administrator £20,000

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Bromo House, 310-312 Regent Street, London, W1A 2AB

£28,500 + BIENS

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

INVESTMENT HOUSE

Totally professional, pro-active PA/Secretary 30-40 with A1 shorthand/audio/WP skills is sought for dynamic MD of expanding City Investment Management House. Fund management/investment experience essential and ideal candidate will have a financial, banking or stockbroking background. Also required is a flexible, confident personality, an eye for detail and the desire to join a highly successful organisation! Please call Sandy or fax CV to:

Rainbow Recruitment
12 South Molton Street, London W1Y 1DF
Tel: 0171 491 7252 Fax: 0171 491 2887

MRAG LTD

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

MRAG LTD is an international consulting company specialising in environmental management and development of marine and terrestrial resources.

We require a person with good communication skills to assist with increased office administration.

The post will include a variety of duties associated with the day to day running of the office with particular responsibility for the maintenance of project records and finances. Good word processing and spreadsheet skills are essential and bookkeeping skills are an advantage.

Please send a covering letter and CV to:

Mrs D. Paterson-Fox, MRAG Ltd, 47 Prince's Gate, London SW7 2QA.

Closing date: 22nd September 1997.

Small, successful, St. James's based P.R.

agency specializing in luxury hotels, restaurants and leisure, needs an outgoing, articulate, intelligent secretary to assist the two Directors in all facets of the agency's operation. Excellent Wordperfect/Word

Windows skills are essential and a knowledge of shorthand would be preferred. Ideal second job for someone keen to learn all aspects of P.R. Salary £17,000 + pa.

Please write with C.V. to Diane Coyne, The Massey Partnership Ltd., 20/21 Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 4HG.

No agencies please.

Corporate Entertainment

Assistant/Administrator

Circa £17k s.a.e.

Small city based entertainment company involved in sporting, music and social events, requires A/level/Graduate to work with busy MD. Must have good keyboard skills, computer literate, organised, accurate and able to work with clients and suppliers at all levels.

Please apply: Tel: 0171 334 0939 or Fax: 0171 417 8249

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Required for Dynamic Private Medical Practice (A/level/diploma in Corporate Health Care).

Address: 10 Wharf Street, W1.

Interviews: Please apply: Tel: 0171 334 8665

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Medium sized award winning firm requires highly organised, efficient administrator.

Please forward CV to:

David Wetherell & Partners, 16 Bowring Green Lane, ECTR 0BD.

Please contact ref: JAC tel: 0181 483 4864

SECRETARY/PA

£18,000 West End

Bright experienced & well spoken secretary required for busy City of London based shopping & leisure group. Age 27+

You will provide administrative support to 3 Directors, one of whom is a well known figure. The role requires someone with energetic enthusiasm & a positive attitude, good secretarial/office typing skills and good computer skills.

Please apply: Tel: 0171 629 1788 To the Company Secretary, 0171 629 1788

SECRETARY/PA

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Please apply: Tel: 0171 629 1788 To the Company Secretary, 0171 629 1788

INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM, MAYFAIR

Requires Sec/PAs for our major international law firm, based in Mayfair, London. Duties include office management, correspondence, travel, client liaison, travel arrangements, liaison with central office. This is an unusual and interesting position which covers a variety of business interests. Non-smokers.

Please apply to Anne-Marie Webb, David Wetherell & Partners, 16 Bowring Green Lane, E

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Famous J/P seeks ultra organised,
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16K ADVERTISING 55pm.
International company needs
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14K FAMOUS HOTEL 50pm.
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Personal Assistant
Salary £14,165 - £16,885 p.a.

Required for the Head of Zoology Department/Director of Wellcome Trust Centre for the Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases, University of Oxford. This is a demanding and stimulating post requiring a mature outlook combined with initiative, resilience, general experience and high professional skills. The PA will be responsible for running Head/Director's Office and for providing a high level of administrative support. It will require a high standard of ability for coping with change in situations and for dealing with people at all levels. The post will commence January 1998.

Send applications (CV and names of 2 referees) to The Administrator, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS, by 15 October 1997.

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This the most prestigious role in this large
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Working on a one-to-one basis, you will be on call at
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If you do, then strange as it may seem, we need your skills.

Secretaries need to be able to do much more than just type to work for one of the world's leading financial and business advisers whose client portfolio contains more than 100 names than anyone else's.

If you have an exceptional ability to prioritise, thrive in a hectic environment where no two days are the same, and seek varied responsibility where you have to use your initiative and think on your feet, then you are looking for the opportunities that we offer.

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High profile Entertainment Firm, newly relocated, need a DTP
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BANKING SECRETARIES

£18-£21,000 + generous package
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£35/hr
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41/42 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB.

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FAX: 0171 734 8501



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By Sea

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HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO EARN
£60,000 etc**

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Please call Evelyn or Charlotte Summers on 0171 637 3212

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An exciting opportunity has arisen for an 'A' level educated PA/sec to join a progressive and dynamic Executive Search consultants to support young MD. You will need to be proactive, with an outgoing personality and have strong secretarial skills.

Call J.S. Agy. 0171 293 7000 Ref: 7016

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Super chance for a bright college or 2nd year student to develop career with prestigious S/H bank. Busy world role with excellent prospects. In progress.

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**All Box number replies
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C/O The Times
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P.O. BOX 3553,
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**FAST PACED, FUN,
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6 months required for 3 to 6 month contract.
Immediate start. You will be expected to provide a 1st class

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Excellent rates!!!

Good knowledge of W4W's, excel,
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French or German is a plus.

Call Kate Hopkins now!!
on 0171 495 2927

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Candidates should be aged 25 - 30 ideally with experience of HR from a financial background, with MS Office and 50 wpm typing. City.

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We have several assignments for shorthand secretaries ideally from a banking/finance background. City and Docklands.

DTP OPERATOR + GERMAN - ong

Shift work for an experienced Freelance and Powerpoint Operator with fluent German. Must be able to work nights. City.

These are just a few of the many assignments we are working on, so if you are interested in these or would like some advice on temping in Investment Banking, please contact Debra Berry or Michelle Gillett.

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Involved role for professional and experienced PA to work with dynamic charismatic personality. You will need to be a career PA ideally with relevant experience and be able to use Word, Excel and Powerpoint.

Managing a very busy diary, and liaising with a variety of contacts, both internally and outside the company.

You must be able to prioritise many tasks and juggle diverse responsibilities.

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£17K ++**

Take on the responsibilities of creative reports and presentations with this interesting and involved role within a growing and successful management consultancy in Knightsbridge.

You need to be totally at ease using Powerpoint, and be an excellent

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1997

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HENRY HENSHFIELD - Divisional Manager of well known business company needs a Receptionist. This is a highly paid position for a proactive, enthusiastic and friendly person. Based at West, Hazel, Peterborough and the surrounding area. Up to £20,000 + excellent benefits. Please call Camilla Longbottom on 0171 452 1122. **Cookhill Recruitment Consultants**

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PROACTIVE PARTS 221K + Bar Staff. Top L1st Co. Full support to build up own component parts business. 60% w/c. We are looking for Employment. Tel: 0171 267 3424.

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CRICKET

MacLaurin asks counties to vote for two divisions

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

COUNTY committees still wavering on the future of the county championship were given a powerful lead yesterday when Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), went public with his personal support for a two-division system.

Until now, Lord MacLaurin has maintained a diplomatic neutrality on the most contentious issue of his proposals for the English game. Now, however, before the vote next Monday, he believes that he must promote the most radical but logical reform available.

"Everything about the two-divisional set-up is right and, at this stage, I feel I should say so," he said. "All sensible cricket lovers, who realise the way the game has to go in order to flourish, will acknowledge there is only one route to be taken."

Speaking to *The Times* from Spain, Lord MacLaurin explained that he had always had a strong preference for two divisions. "But when I first put it to the counties during our research period, 14 of the 18 said it was not on under any circumstances. So

instead, we came up with what was clearly a fudge."

As Lord MacLaurin may have anticipated, the counties considered the complex scheme of three equal conferences for the championship

he was "very heartened by the positive response" to a switch to promotion and relegation.

With no guarantee of a simple majority, however, the executives of the ECB have offered a third option — a thinly disguised variation on the "run change" that Lord MacLaurin has always insisted could not be considered. It is the possibility that timid counties might embrace this compromise that has prompted the chairman to speak out.

"The counties were right to reject the conference system but, now, I feel, they must retain their positive mood and back two divisions," he said. "The game has to be seen to be bigger than any local concerns and it takes big men to run it. I sense the county chairmen have begun to look forward and I will be very disappointed if they do not vote for this structure on Monday."

The race for the championship this season resumes today with Kent facing Yorkshire at Headingley looking for the victory that could bring them their first title since 1978. If they win and Glamorgan fail to defeat Essex at Cardiff, Kent might — depending on the distribution of bonus points — be champions by Saturday evening.

and, in some cases, began to wonder if two fluid divisions was such a non-starter after all. Six counties forced an emergency meeting of the First Class Forum last week and Lord MacLaurin said that

REMAINING FIXTURES: Kent v Yorkshire (1st Sept); Surrey v Glamorgan (2nd Sept); Warwickshire v Lancashire (2nd Sept); Derbyshire v Sussex (2nd Sept).

IN THE LEAD: Ian Austin bowls to Atherton

Photo: PA

TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	Bl	Br	Pts
Kent (14)	26	10	10	6	2	2	440
Glamorgan (10)	15	6	2	7	3	2	49200
Yorkshire (16)	15	6	2	7	3	2	49200
Gloucestershire (13)	15	6	2	7	3	2	49200
Warwickshire (10)	15	5	3	7	2	1	48100
Middlesex (9)	15	5	3	7	2	1	48100
Surrey (3)	15	5	3	7	2	1	47100
Essex (7)	15	4	3	8	4	1	46100
Notts (11)	15	4	3	8	4	1	45100
Leicestershire (11)	15	3	5	7	2	1	45100
Northants (16)	15	3	5	7	2	1	42100
Derbyshire (18)	15	2	6	7	3	2	37134
Sussex (21)	15	1	9	5	2	2	24103
Devon (2)	15	0	10	5	2	2	21103
Beds (2)	15	0	10	5	2	2	21103
Sussex (21)	15	1	9	5	2	2	21103
Sussex (21)	15	1	9	5	2	2	21103

Last year's positions in brackets

□ REMAINING FIXTURES: Kent Today; v Yorkshire (1st Sept); Surrey v Glamorgan (2nd Sept); Warwickshire Today; v Sussex (2nd Sept); v Lancashire Today; v Kent (2nd Sept); v Derbyshire (1st Sept).

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IN THE LEAD: Ian Austin bowls to Atherton

Photo: PA

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KEMPTON PARK

THUNDERER
1.45 Zelah, 2.15 Lookout, 2.45 Tamarisk, 3.20
Milana, 3.50 Celtic Cross, 4.20 Your Most Welcome.
Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.45 IKITEYAA
(nap), 2.45 Greek Dance.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

1.45 EBF MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

	1 (13)	2 (18)	3 (18)	4 (18)	5 (18)	6 (18)	7 (18)	8 (18)	9 (18)	10 (18)	11 (18)	12 (18)	13 (18)	14 (18)	15 (18)	16 (18)	17 (18)	18 (18)	19 (18)	20 (18)	21 (18)	22 (18)	23 (18)	24 (18)	25 (18)	26 (18)	27 (18)	28 (18)	29 (18)	30 (18)	31 (18)	32 (18)	33 (18)	34 (18)	35 (18)	36 (18)	37 (18)	38 (18)	39 (18)	40 (18)	41 (18)	42 (18)	43 (18)	44 (18)	45 (18)	46 (18)
S Drawn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
P Edsby	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
S Sanders	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (1)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (2)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (3)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (4)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (5)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (6)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (7)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (8)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (9)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (10)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (11)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (12)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (13)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (14)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (15)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (16)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
G. D. (17)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14																																

Bank on NatWest to disappoint

The race is not always to the swift — but that is the right way to bet. An old gambler's saying, and it is always a pleasure to bet on a genuine sporting certainty. A good example is the NatWest Trophy final. As every wise sporting person knows, the best way to enjoy one-day cricket is to confine your watching to the last 20 overs of the second innings. The bit that comes before merely establishes the terms on which the battle proper is fought.

Only once the last 20 overs begin do we see the struggle and the drama. The preliminaries are intriguing, in a pawn-to-Kings sort of way. But one-day cricket is not a sustained drama like a Test match: it is ordinary and prosaic stuff — but with a very loud and flashy denouement.

One-day cricket lacks the soliloquies, the ghost, the mad scene and any of the myriad themes such as sonhood, atonement, politicking, paternity. But you always get the duel and the blood-letting. People complain, after the retirement of a Botham or a Cantona, that the sport in

question has become Hamlet without the prince, but one-day cricket is always Hamlet without the plot.

But a lovely bloody conclusion. With this thought in mind, the cricket season always celebrates the beginning of the end with the NatWest final. Well, it was no good watching the last 20 overs on Sunday. There were no last 20 overs.

What was worth watching, then? Er, well, the toss, I suppose. This is cricket's end-of-term shindig, its Last Night of the Proms — and it lacked *Jerusalem*, *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. It always does. This final has become one of the most terrible damp squibs in sport. The match is won and lost on the toss if you bat first, you lose.

Yes, I know about that strange and spooky aberration of last year, when Essex, after restricting Lancashire to the modest total of 186, managed to get themselves out for 57. They didn't play the last 20 overs that time, either. This was but the exception, however. Last Sunday we resumed the normal pattern of a totally

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

always find some romantic who believes that this year the underdog will prevail. Cheer for the underdog, by all means — but if you look to make a profit it is the overdog that you should bet on. The victory of the NFC side has become so utterly predictable that it has undermined the hold that the sport had established on the people of the United States.

Its end-of-term firework display has become yet another inevitable damp squib, for there is nothing quite as wet as an uncompetitive competition. And this is tough on the sport, because it has always been over backwards to maintain the parity of competition.

Every year, the team that finishes last is given first pick of the emerging college players, and the first, the Super Bowl winners themselves, the last. The teams that win do, indeed, change: a brief period of hegemony is followed by decline. But the pre-eminence of the NFC remains in place — and every year, the perfect predictability of this utterly destroys the showpiece. Basketball — whose end-of-term spectaculars are generally

memorable stuff — has taken over as America's No 1 sport.

At the Olympic Games, the total dominance of the Dream Team, the United States basketball side swaggering from blowout to blowout, from predictable victory to predictable victory, became the most colossal bore imaginable. Even America, a place not easily disturbed by such things as crass and vulgar global dominance, felt a trifle embarrassed. Sure, the results said that America was truly great — but the matches themselves were dire. You did not need to watch to know the result and so the sport itself lost all point.

Sport needs unpredictability: needs parity of competition. Football is the boom sport in this country right now. The floating voters, on whom the boom depends, will start to walk away if the plot gets too predictable. The Scottish league has long been a joke — some years it is so close that you hardly know who is going to come third. But the joke might start to wear a little thin if Premiership football goes the same way.

TENNIS: MOYA WARNS US OPEN FINALIST TO BEWARE CLAY-COURT EXPERT AT BOURNEMOUTH

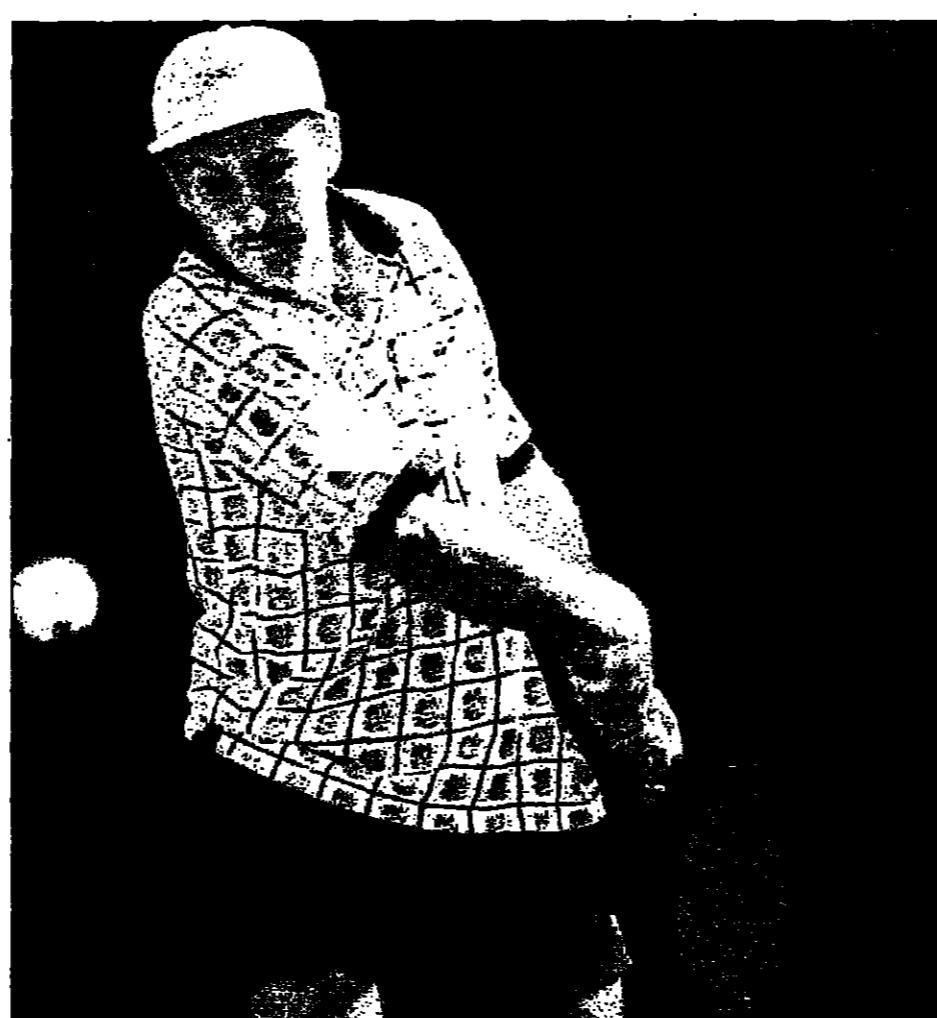
Britons set stage for Rusedski

BY ALEX RAMSAY

THERE must be something in the air at the Samsung Open in Bournemouth. Three out of four Britons reached the second round yesterday for the loss of just one set between them. There had to be one loser among the home-grown team of five as Mark Petchey and Danny Sapsford faced each other.

The only man yet to play under the British flag is Greg Rusedski, who arrived in Bournemouth yesterday evening and will play his first match today against Alberto Martin. However, before he had even reached the practice courts, he was given a few words of warning from the top seed, Carlos Moya.

After skipping through his opening match against Oren Monevassel, from Israel, 64, 6-0, Moya cast his mind back to the Australian Open and the effects of losing his first grand-slam final. "Greg's a good player, but it's going to be difficult for him," Moya said. "His mind is not going to be here. It happened to me when I came back from Australia. I wasn't concentrated, it's not easy. I know Martin, he doesn't get tight or nervous and he's used to clay. My money is on him."



Sapsford drives a backhand during his defeat of Petchey at Bournemouth yesterday

into the second round with a simple 6-3, 6-3 victory over Lionel Roux, from France. He now faces Chris Wilkinson, who polished off Alastair Hunt, a qualifier from New Zealand, 6-2, 6-2. In 1995, Wilkinson was one of the first

to complain at the adoption by Great Britain of Rusedski. Yesterday, he was joining in the chorus of approval for what the inordinately good-humoured one has achieved. "It was a great effort from Greg at the US Open," he said.

Results, page 45

RUGBY UNION

Connacht take control in European coup

Connacht.....43
Northampton.....13

BY KARL JOHNSTON

THIS was Connacht's finest hour at the Galway Sports Ground yesterday, the European Conference annihilation of a club bristling with some of the biggest names of rugby, most of them left on the sidelines until the situation became critical.

Leading 20-3 at half-time, Connacht underlined their superiority with tries by Ruane and Carolan to add to scores from Dugnian and McEntee.

"It is great for British tennis and great for British kids to have someone to look up to with him and Tim." Now all Rusedski has to do is prove Moya wrong.

Results, page 45

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Answers from page 45

LIPPER
(a) A rippling, slight rustling of the surface of the sea. Probably from the verb to lipper, of water, to ripple.

MOLLAG
(a) A dog's skin blown up as a bladder, and used to float the herring-nets. As empty as a mollag, quite empty. As full as a mollag, quite drunk. Manx dialect.

MUCHILKA
(b) A written bond. From the Hindi word.

MARMENNILL
(a) A merman. Icelandic diminutive of mar-r the sea + mann a man.

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TELEVISION CHOICE

It's the lion king and queen

Animal People: The Story of Little Lion BBC1, 7.00pm



Gillian with Shingalama (BBC1, 7.00pm)

On the alert for a new spin on the wildlife series, the BBC's Natural History Unit has come up with stories of people who are not just involved with animals but share their lives with them. We start in South Africa, where Gillian Van Houten and her partner John Varty adopt an abandoned lion cub. Varty is a wildlife cameraman used to living in the bush but for Van Houten, who grew up in the city, it is a new experience. The cub is a cute little thing at first and even shares the couple's bed. But lions do not stay small for ever. As she approaches adulthood the cub has developed from a cuddly pet into a powerful and potentially dangerous animal. After three years Van Houten and Varty return her to a pride, aware that if she is rejected she could be in danger herself.

Conjuring Shakespeare BBC2, 7.30pm

The latest project from the Open University to offer to a general audience is this series about making Shakespeare relevant to modern audiences. Those who recoil at the thought of being lectured at need have no fears. Although academically rigorous, the programmes should appeal to any theatregoer interested in the challenges of staging plays written 400 years ago. We start by looking at how directors have tried to convey the magic of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to a generation weaned on the special effects of the cinema. Peter Brook's mould-breaking 1970 production, which had the actors on stilts and trapdoors, inevitably looms large. Other versions featured include that of the English Shakespeare Company, with its fairy bower made of sticky tape.

One Foot in the Past BBC2, 8.30pm

Not many people can have seen a facial resemblance between J. Arthur Rank, the cinema magnate, and Bruce Forsyth, but Bob Monkhouse does and it offers him a moment of levity during a nostalgic return to Rank's Pinewood Studios. Return is the right word, for in the 1950s Monkhouse was a bit of a film star, in the first *Carry On*, no less. But he concedes that he was no

Peter Waymark

The Nazis A Warning From History BBC2, 9.00pm

The Nazi regime continues to exercise a ghastly

fascination. Stalin's Soviet Union and the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia run it close in the league of 20th-century atrocities, but Germany was

supposed to be a land of culture. In charting its rise to power, this first programme asks how Germans got themselves saddled with a regime of such brutality. It argues that far from fulfilling a divine destiny (the Nazi version), Hitler

was swept into office by the economic depression and the miscalculations of bankers and businessmen who thought they could use him to galvanise the nation. The thesis is unoriginal but it is propounded with clarity and force. The most chilling contributions come from unrepentant former Nazis. Testifying to Hitler's magnetism is one thing. Insisting on a world Jewish conspiracy is quite another.

RADIO CHOICE

Trade Update Radio 1, 8.30pm

Parents who wonder where their offspring get all this scepticism may like to tune in to this the latest in a series of programmes generically named *Update*, which aim to act as a 10-minute primer on all kinds of issues. It does the job very well, too, and *Trade Update* aims to pack in a lot of information, from listener grumbles to buying tips to looking after personal finance. Obviously the programme aims to be "different" compared with other consumer shows, but it necessarily covers some of the same ground, albeit in an invigorating way. There is a refreshing absence of experts showing off and little danger of boredom setting in while one wonders what point an item is trying to make, a danger with certain other consumer shows.

RADIO 1

6.00am Kevin Greening 9.30 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 2.00pm Nick Campbell 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Trade Update. See Choice 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Charlie Jordan 1.00am City Game 2.00am Cris Moyle

RADIO 2

6.00 Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Wogan 9.00 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thorver 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Walker 7.00 Nick Barrachuk 8.00 Jim Lloyd 9.00 String Sage 9.30 Talking Comedy 10.00 Steve Wright Picture Show 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mar 2.00pm Russes on Five 4.00 Nationalities with Julian Fellowes 7.00 News Extra 7.30 World News 9.00 Live coverage from Wembley of England's perfunctive World Cup qualifier against Moldova 10.00 Littleton A chance to comment on tonight's football action by telephoning 0500-909933 11.00 News with Annies Webster 12.00 After Hours 2.00pm Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffin 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorran Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Daekay 7.00 Anna Reuben 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

3.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Alan Mann 9.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Lunchtime Requests 2.00 Classic Concerto. Tartinii (Cello Concerto in D major); 3.00 Jamie Crichton 7.00 Classic Newsnight 7.30 Sonata Vivace (Oboe Sonata in C major) 8.00 Concerto for Violin (Violin Concerto in G major); 9.00 Mendelssohn (Piano Concerto No 1 in G minor); 10.00 Stanford (Stabat Mater, Op 96) 10.00 Michael Mappin 2.00am Classic Concerto (r)

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Russ 'n' Jono's Breakfast Experience 10.00 Graham Dene 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Rob Banks 6.00 Paul Coyle (FM) / Nick Abbot (AM) 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Porter

RADIO 4

5.00am The Music Machine. From the Lake District. Penist Martin Rowlands joins a trio of musicians from the Queen's Hall Orchestra in Kendal to learn some secrets of playing chamber music (1)

5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Macmillan. Includes Cole Porter (Miss Cole's Regrets); Michael Torke (Bright Blue Music); Leifer-Weyl (Sortie in E flat)

7.30 BBC Proms 97, BBC Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under Sir Peter Hall; Mendelssohn's Symphony No 5 in D (Reformation); 7.30 Brahms' Violin Concerto; Forever, Frederick Swanson looks at Brahms' Double Bass Quintet; 7.55 Concert part two; Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem (Prelude in F)

9.20 Lost in London, Andrew Green recreates the life of The Oxford, commonly regarded as one of the most magnificent music halls in London (3/5)

9.40 A Day in the Life of the City, Felicity Palmer, soprano, Roger Vignoles, piano. Walton (A Song for the Lord Mayor's Table)

10.00 BBC Proms 97. The final late night Prom of the 1997 season features Thomas Trotter, organ, City Ensemble; Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Wind Ensemble under Simon Ratte, Mozart (Fantasia in F major); Kodály (Serenade in B flat); Sibelius (Finlandia, Partita)

11.30 Jazz Composer of the Week: Schubert. Digby Fairweather presents the guitarists John Etheridge's new group, Blue Spirit, in session

1.00am Through the Night with Donald Macleod

2.00am Schubert (Prelude, Op 44); Stravinsky (Jeux de l'enfance); Boulez (Hiroshima); Boulez (Quintet in F major); Smetana (Arabian Dance); Brahms (Piano Quartet in G minor)

RADIO 4

5.00 PM, with Clare English and Chris Lowe 5.55 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Blend Britain 6.00 Scotland and the Islands

6.30 Blend Britain 6.30 Scotland and the Islands

6.30

One man's bashful view of women's world

There is, I suppose, a certain logic to having *Looking Good* (BBC2) on in the evening rather than in the daytime slot which nature clearly intended. After all, many women are at work during the day. Why should they be deprived of the goodies that get us stop-at-homes through the day? For instance, would never get past morning coffee without at least ten minutes of Richard Madeley pretending to ignore the models that live up to the fashion items on *This Morning* (ITV). With the first week of its new season entirely taken up — most movingly — by the nation's grief, things are only slowly getting back to their superficial best. Still, stilettos ("kiss-me shoes" as Nina Myskow tactfully described them) were a start on Monday.

According to the resident fashion expert, vertiginously high heels would be worn with the new (as in "we haven't seen them for at least

two years") micro-mini. Madeley raised a bored eyebrow. Then the first model came on wearing some very high heels and a very short skirt. Suddenly, Madeley began to gabble a story about a hole in their kitchen floor left many years ago by one of Judy's stilettos. Judy Finnigan, his co-host and wife, smiled indulgently — she has been known to hit him during underwear items, but she does like it when he makes an effort.

On Monday he made big efforts. Presumably unaware of just how short the skirts were going to be, the set designer had constructed a raised catwalk with Richard, Judy et al seated below. Well, you could probably work out the angles as well as Madeley could. He spent the next five minutes staring single-mindedly at ankle-strap levels. "High heels give you a very sexy walk," trilled the expert, "as well as pushing your bottom out." "Mmm," agreed Madeley,

through clenched teeth. How he suffers for his art.

As indeed, do I. I admit it was the word "linger" that led me to the second instalment of *Looking Good*, but I was sure that, this being BBC2 and apparently a single-sex programme, any underwear on display would be in tissue-lined drawers or sensible multi-packs. Damn, it was.

Louri Turner was in Paris, apparently with the sole intent of trotting out the tired old chestnut of French women spending more money on fashion and beauty than their British counterparts. Then — with a dizzying lack of imagination — she and her unseen team set out to prove it. And do you know, by taking practical Louise, who spends £130 a month on looking good, and seriously chic Ghislaine, who spent £250 a month and felt "necked" without her expensive

perfume, it turned out to be true. Funny, that.

If *Looking Good* is daytime television masquerading as prime-time television, then *The Feel Good Factor* (Channel 4) is children's television pretending it's for grown-ups. That doesn't make it bad or stop it being fun, but it does make it simplistic and naive.

Last night, Mark Little, looking and sounding more like an Antipo-

dean John Noakes than ever, rushed around the villages of Ashill in Norfolk and South Zeal in Devon trying to do something about health. The only problem was, they seemed to be quite healthy already. The children from both villages (who we know by now will be roped in early on) had much better teeth than the national average. South Zeal was chock-full of alternative healers, and Ashill had a well-organised system of volunteer drivers for those who needed to get to the nearest hospital, 20 miles away.

South Zeal romped away with the entirely meaningless competition to see which was the healthier village, largely because the energetic dancing pensioners of Ashill were still putting double cream in their quiches. "Well, you've got to have some 'treats,'" said one, unrepentantly. Given that the programme's other sensational discovery was that there was no

condom machine in the ladies loo of the local pub, I think she's probably right.

With *Noah's Ark* getting under way on Monday night, *All Creatures Great and Small* attempting to bring a little cheer to last Saturday and *Vets in Practice* (BBC1) on twice a week, the veterinary profession is having a good run. So too is Trude, the blonde Norwegian who, both adjectives are vital, in *Vets in Practice* seems increasingly dependent.

Her competence is no longer in question, so she's moved on to humour — helped, it must be said, by the arrival of a rabbit called Useless... to be castrated. "He's going to be even more useless after that," she observed accurately. After he came round from the operation, Useless ran around with a flower-pot on his head, which I thought was a much better joke and certainly a surreal challenge too far for Trude's scriptwriter.

Finally, we're now two hours in for some of the smug, aren't-we-clever stuff from part one to have thankfully worn off but possibly not quite far enough to attempt the long-key ending last night.

As my colleague Joe Joseph pointed out yesterday, its creator, Tony Merchant, has happily acknowledged debts to Dickens, Wolfe and Robert Altman's *Short Cuts*. But there are others, too: echoes of *Trainspotting*, *This Life*, even *EastEnders*. That's fine, as long as it eventually adds up to more than the sum of other people's parts.

But wait, I haven't yet told you how it ended. A man in suit and tie laid flowers on the spot where a pretty girl he apparently never knew had died. No, didn't remind me of anything, either.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

egis

6.00am Business Breakfast (65949)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (98141855)

9.05 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (2086562)

9.30 Style Challenge (T) (1827652)

9.55 Kirov (T) (5876213)

10.35 Change That (1966039)

11.00 News (T) regional news and weather (4238107)

11.05 The Really Useful Show (T) (9276126)

11.35 Room for Improvement (2849126)

12.00 News (T) regional news and weather (6871229)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (9079720)

12.35 Going for a Song (9882381)

1.00 One O'Clock News (T) and weather (97774)

1.30 Regional News and weather (T) (17886107)

1.40 The Weather Show (87734720)

1.45 Neighbours Jo refuses to accept Toadie's apology (T) (77512300)

2.10 Quincy (T) (9249949)

3.00 Through the Keyhole (7247088)

3.25 Playdays (T) (7325403) 3.50

Chucklevision (T) (8848519) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (T) (4120245) 4.35 Prince of Atlantis (T) (6053534) 5.00 Newsround (T) (9458720) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (5427316)

5.35 Neighbours Bily gets drawn into a family argument (T) (134403)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (885)

6.30 Regional News (T) (107)

7.00 *Animal People* New series exploring the bond between people and animals (T) (1294)

7.30 Tomorrow's World A new "morning-after" pill for HIV; a new aircraft collision early warning device (T) (519)

8.00 Children's Hospital A spine bifida sufferer is brought into casualty complaining of stomach pains; baby needs radical facial surgery; the progress of premature baby girl Toni (332)

8.30 The National Lottery Live With the cast of Coronation Street and music by Roachford (T) (526881)

8.45 Points of View (T) (443584)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (T) regional news and weather (2381)

9.25 National Lottery Update (988768)

9.30 The X Files Mulder and Jerrah uncover fresh evidence regarding his sister at a remote farm, while managing to stay one step ahead of the Bounty Hunter — but for how long? Sci-fi drama, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (T) (295768)

10.15 Panoramas Devotion Special (T) (138478)

11.15 Lethal Charm (1991) starring Barbara Eden, Heather Locklear and Julia Fullerton. A made-for-television drama about the uneasy relationship between a journalist and her new colleague. Directed by Richard Michaels (135223)

12.00 Just the Way You Are (1984) A comedy starring Kristy McNichol and Michael Ontkean, directed by Edouard Molinaro (524411)

2.20 Weather (1930410)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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6.00am Open University: The Liberation of Algeria (6882655) 6.05 The Times (T) (1961500) 6.50 World's Best Athlete? (T) (5749500)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) (4716010) 7.30 Smart Adventures (T) (5749500)

10.00 The Time, the Place (70565)

10.30 This Morning (1843300)

12.20pm Regional News (T) (6797213)

12.30pm Luton Chronicle (8089402) 9.50 Tom and Jerry (8077107) 10.00 Teletubbies (83133)

10.30 Working Lunch (44519)

11.00 TUC Conference (4236749)

1.00pm Working Lunch Update (83246861)

1.10 The Craft Hour (8135836)

2.10 News (T) and weather (32278478)

2.15 TUC Conference (326749)

3.55 News (T) (8324584)

4.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (720) 4.30 Going, Going, Gone (6052855) 4.55 Esther (2948346) 5.30 5.30 Today's Day (884519)

5.30 Star Trek (T) (884519)

5.55 Sixty Years Ago (884519)

6.00 Star Trek (T) (884519)

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7.00 Sixty Years Ago (884519)

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CRICKET 43

MacLaurin backs
two-division
county championship

SPORT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1997

TENNIS 46

Sapsford wins
the battle
of Britons



National teams aspire to roles of honour in Caribbean and important World Cup qualifying tie

England face great expectations

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ONE high-profile England career was put on probationary hold yesterday and another was almost certainly terminated. A third, however, was belatedly revived as Angus Fraser, the most dependable seam bowler of his generation, was named in the 16-strong party to tour the West Indies in the new year.

Fraser's recall indicates concern over both the inexperience of the England seam bowlers and their profligacy by comparison with their Ashes opponents this summer. "One thing we have learnt this summer is the need for accurate seam bowling," David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, who also confirmed that Fraser's expertise would be used to assist the younger bowlers said.

It is hardly a progressive selection for Fraser, now having his benefit year at Middlesex is 32 and it will be two years since his last Test when the tour begins in January. But within the framework of England's chosen attack, in which the three principal fast bowlers have played only 40 Tests between them, it makes perfect sense.

Equally sensible, and possibly overdue, is the decision to do without Devon Malcolm, three years older than Fraser and much less reliable. And there can be no quibbles over the omission, from all the winter touring teams, of Dominic Cork; the words of Graveney elucidated just how much the mentor of 1995 has to do before being welcomed back.

Cork, Graveney said, "has been through a difficult period. Derbyshire has not been a happy place to play cricket this year and we don't see him as a viable selection at this stage. When Cork is fit, physically and temperamentally, he can once again be an asset to the England side". That is an opinion shared by Derbyshire, who last night named him as their new captain.

I understand that Graham Gooch visited Cork on behalf of the selectors last week and that discussions about the shortcomings of his recent past, and his plans for the future, were full and frank.



Graveney is deep in thought after the announcement of the England squads yesterday

Graveney made a courtesy call to him yesterday, before the teams were announced, and made another to Malcolm, whose Test match days are now surely over.

Graveney, however, did lose one debate over the selection table. Steve James, who heads the national batting averages by a country mile, was apparently the choice of the chairman as the third opening

batsman, but his colleagues preferred the claims of Mark Butcher, who played in five Tests this season.

While James has to be content with the vice-captaincy of the A team, which will be led by Nick Knight, Butcher's immediate role will be dictated as is so much else in the England side, by the next twist in Alec Stewart's mercurial career.

and the final seam-bowling position. Against opposition from Paul Hutchison, of Yorkshire, and more than one bowling all-rounder, this went to Ashley Cowan, recognition for an admirable season with Essex more than for his outstanding bowling in the NatWest Trophy final.

Cowan, at 22, is comfortably the youngest member of a party with an average age of 28. This contrasts tellingly with the selection of the A team to tour Kenya and Sri Lanka. Of the 16 named, no fewer than eight are teenagers, all part of the England Under-19 squad this summer and representative of the desire to establish a conveyor belt of young talent into the senior sides.

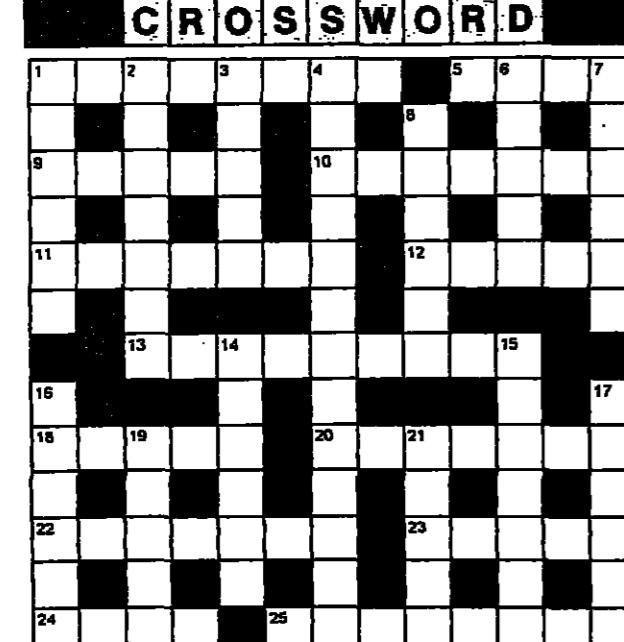
Jonathan Powell, the Essex off spinner, who will join the squad after the youth World Cup in South Africa, has played only one first-class match, while Chris Read has played none at all. However, Read, reserve wicketkeeper at Gloucestershire, is a coveted young cricketer and an enlightened selection.

There were no particular surprises in the 15-man party for the one-day competition in Sharjah during December. Limited-overs specialists, such as Browns, Alistair and Dougie, Ashley Giles and even the half-forgotten Graeme Hick are included, along with only six of the West Indies selection. Whether any of these players will fly to the Caribbean for the five one-day internationals that end the tour has yet to be finalised.

As expected, Adam Hollooke will captain the side in Sharjah, but speculation that this makes him the natural inheritor of Atherton's job has been confused by the appointment of Nasser Hussain as vice-captain in the West Indies. Plainly, no preferred successor has emerged and the selectors would be delighted if no change was necessary in the foreseeable future.

The spare opener was one of the contentious areas, the others being the place claimed by Fraser ahead of Peter Martin

Essex made to pay, page 43



No 1195

ACROSS

- Measure of air moisture (8)
- Long, heroic poem (4)
- Darling girl (*Peter Pan*) (5)
- Singing to backing tape (4)
- Distinguished (7)
- Book of maps (5)
- Unlike (9)
- Projecting roof edge (5)
- Milan opera house (2,5)
- Speak briefly of (7)
- Experienced, skilful (5)
- Bonde's necklace (4)
- Imprudent (8)

DOWN

- Nautical cable (6)
- People as a whole (7)
- Sir Arthur Conan — (5)
- Commit oneself to (risk) (4,3,6)
- Go stealthily (5)
- A food very tis from chalk (6)
- Suave (6)
- Relic (of long-ago animal) (6)
- Acrobat's swinging bar (7)
- Allow entry document (6)
- Aniseed aperitif (6)
- Meeting-place (5)
- Slap: fishing boat (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1194

ACROSS: 1 Symbolic, 5 Whet, 8 Artifice, 9 Fray, 11 Perth, 12 Muezin, 13 Trophy, 15 Corner, 16 Devious, 19 Ducks, 21 Noon, 22 Pugilist, 23 Rusk, 24 Road rage, 25 Daybreak, 26 Onset, 7 Kingpin, 12 Flagrant, 13 Hostage, 15 Gouache, 16 Clinic, 18 Upper, 20 Serve, 21 Sunup, 16 Rosette, 17 Fseudo, 18 Donor, 20 China

ACROSS: 1 Label, 4 Wedlock, 5 Poinciana, 9 Sin, 10 Zeal, 11 Doorstep, 13 Huddle, 14 Jargon, 17 Squiggle, 19 Fuss, 22 Asp, 23 Announcer, 24 Erratic, 25 Peave, 26 Down: 1 La Paz, 2 Brigand, 3 Lynn, 4 Wanton, 5 Daybreak, 6 Onset, 7 Kingpin, 12 Flagrant, 13 Hostage, 15 Gouache, 16 Clinic, 18 Upper, 20 Serve, 21 Sunup, 16 Rosette, 17 Fseudo, 18 Donor, 20 China

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 1190

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Label, 4 Wedlock, 5 Poinciana, 9 Sin, 10 Zeal, 11 Doorstep, 13 Huddle, 14 Jargon, 17 Squiggle, 19 Fuss, 22 Asp, 23 Announcer, 24 Erratic, 25 Peave, 26 Down: 1 La Paz, 2 Brigand, 3 Lynn, 4 Wanton, 5 Daybreak, 6 Onset, 7 Kingpin, 12 Flagrant, 13 Hostage, 15 Gouache, 16 Clinic, 18 Upper, 20 Serve, 21 Sunup, 16 Rosette, 17 Fseudo, 18 Donor, 20 China

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is £1 P Jones, Anglesey. All rights subject to availability.

TOUR PARTIES

ENGLAND (to West Indies) M A Atherton (Lancashire, captain), M A Hussain (Essex, vice-captain), M A Butcher (Surrey), A R Caddick (Somerset), D Gough (Middlesex), D Gooch (Yorkshire), D W Headley (Karni), A J Illingworth (Warwickshire), M R Illingworth (Middlesex), R C Russell (Gloucestershire), A J Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe (Surrey), G R Tatham (Middlesex), D A Graveney, D R Hockley (Berkshire), D A Graveney, Coach: Lloyd

ENGLAND (to Kenya and Sri Lanka) and Sharjah, A Hobbs (captain), Croft, Gough, Headley, Stewart, Thorpe, A D Brown (Surrey), D J Brown (Warwickshire), M A Illingworth (Middlesex), F Giles (Worcestershire), G Hick (Worcestershire), B C Hollingshead (Surrey), N V Knight (Worcestershire), P J Langdale (Warwickshire), D J Lester (Norfolk), D M Long (Surrey), D M Statham (Glos & Wilts), G W Silverwood (Yorks), Manager: G E Gooch, Coach: D W Gatting

There is a good chance, confirmed by Graveney, that Stewart and his captain, Michael Atherton, will be recruited as openers, freeing the wicketkeeping duties for Jack Russell. Four winters ago, in the Caribbean, Atherton and Stewart went in first and made almost 1,000 runs between them in five Tests. Such experience could be critical for what remains an intimidating tour, so it is significant that nine of the party are making their second trip to the West Indies and their third.

The spare opener was one of the contentious areas, the others being the place claimed by Fraser ahead of Peter Martin

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

IT WILL start with a song 15 minutes before the kick-off, a recording of Elton John's new version of *Candle in the Wind*, for which the crowd will be required to stand. Then, there will be a minute's silence in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, that will test the resolve of the players as much as the impact of any tackle or the pursuit of any wayward ball.

When these things have passed and release has come with the roar of the crowd, a charged audience will fill Wembley to its capacity tonight, England's footballers will try to focus their energies on a World Cup qualifying tie against Moldova that once would have been routine but is now far from that.

Once goals from Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham, both of whom are missing tonight, had disposed of Poland in Katowice in May, this match against the whipping boys of group two, the team that has not earned a point in its five matches so far, should have been a happy formality, a stop at a staging post on the journey towards Rome and the decisive meeting with Italy next month.

That all changed with the tragedy that unfolded in Paris 11 days ago and when Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, gave his final pre-match briefing yesterday, he was candid about the fact that the game might turn on how his team reacts in the midst of the maelstrom of sadness that will swirl around the ground before the start.

Hoddle took the gloom of the oak-panelled room where his press conferences are usually held and took to the lawns of Bisham Abbey instead, gathering an impromptu circle before him on the banks of the Thames and taking as working barges and pleasure boats drifted by and ramblers across the water waved their greetings.

It was as if he wanted to place himself at the heart of a picture of serenity and calm, to bathe in sunlight again, not remain in darkness. He said once more that he hoped his team could lift the nation from

itself of them having to lift us or us having to lift them. But as soon as the whistle goes, we have got a job to do and the crowd have got a job, as well. Let's hope they take the roof off with their cheering and make that a show of respect, too.

It is possible, of course, that the emotion of the evening will serve to inspire England to a higher level of performance than they would otherwise have achieved and, as long as the sombre preamble to the match does not affect them too drastically, they should have little trouble in easing past Moldova. Victory would take them to the top of the group if Italy fail to win in Georgia.

Hoddle even said he was considering leaving David Beckham, one of four players who have a yellow card to their names already, out of the starting line-up to ensure that he did not pick up a second caution that would rule him out of the match in Rome on October 11.

MOLDOVA (probable: 3-5-2) D Samson (Arsenal) — G Neville (Manchester United), S Campbell (Nottingham Forest), D Harkes (Arsenal), S Kinsella (Blackburn Rovers), D Beckham (Manchester United), P Gascoigne (Rangers), S Scholz (Manchester United), P Newell (Leeds), D Venables (Arsenal), L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur).

ENGLAND (probable: 3-5-2) D Samson (Arsenal) — G Neville (Manchester United), S Campbell (Nottingham Forest), D Harkes (Arsenal), S Kinsella (Blackburn Rovers), D Beckham (Manchester United), P Gascoigne (Rangers), S Scholz (Manchester United), P Newell (Leeds), D Venables (Arsenal), L Ferdinand (Tottenham Hotspur).

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 2, 7pm, 10.30pm, 11pm

RIGHT: with Beckham moved into the centre with Paul Gascoigne and Paul Scholes. If Beckham plays wide, Robert Lee may start in the centre.

This is a tougher game than some people have suggested," Hoddle said. "They have got some good individuals. It is a no-lose situation for them. It is only us who have got something to lose, but in an ideal world, if we could beat them more than that would be the ideal scenario."

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Illness forces Howard to withdraw

BARCLAY HOWARD, Britain's best amateur golfer, has already fought alcoholism. Now he has discovered he has leukaemia (John Hopkins writes). Howard, 44, should have been at Burnham and Berrow yesterday with his Scotland team-mates as they gathered for the home internationals, which start today. Instead, the man who was the leading amateur in the Open in July and has twice played in the Walker Cup, was in the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he underwent a biopsy. He will start a course of chemotherapy later this week.

He always has a crack for any situation and this will be one reason why Howard is such a popular person. "He is a great player, so vibrant and always cheerful, whether on or off the course," Gary Woisteholme, of England, who competed with Howard in the recent Walker Cup, said. "Everyone is devastated by this news."

Howard first represented Scotland in 1979 but made his name more recently. He was a member of the Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup team that defeated the United States at Royal Porthcawl two years ago and was in the four-man Eisenhower Trophy team in the Philippines last autumn.

In the Walker Cup at Quaker New York, last month, Howard played poorly. He complained of continually being tired. At the time this was put down to the extreme heat. Subsequent blood tests led to the diagnosis of leukaemia.

"Our thoughts are entirely with him and his family," Colin Wood, the Scotland captain, said. "It is clear from the way the news was received here that Barclay is a man greatly respected."

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